

# The Kathy Dowling Aquatic Center

*"SWIMMING IS LIFE. JUST ADD WATER"*

**-Kathy Dowling**

In appreciation for her lifelong dedication to aquatics, for her passion teaching children and for radiating positivity throughout her life, the City of Greenfield and the Greenfield Parks and Recreation Board proudly changed the name of the Riley Park Community Swimming Pool to The Kathy Dowling Aquatics Center on July 22, 2021.

As a child, Kathy swam every day in the old above ground Riley pool, all summer long, from open to close. As a teen she lifeguarded and taught swimming lessons at Riley pool, and started an adaptive aquatics program for special needs children and adults. She continued to teach people to swim, train lifeguards and certify instructors for 50 years.

Kathy believed that every person has special gifts and the ability to make his or her corner of the world a better place. She believed that every person should have the opportunity to learn to swim and enjoy all water activities. She wanted to make the world a better place.

Kathy has devoted her life to supporting Greenfield and the Hancock County community, where she was born and raised.

A few years after graduating from Indiana University, she returned to Greenfield where she coached the AAU Greenfield Swim Club and Greenfield-Central High School's boys and girls swimming and diving teams, retiring in 2000.

She was later inducted into Greenfield-Central High School's athletic and alumni halls of fame. She served on the committee to design the new Riley Pool when the former above ground pool was demolished, and the new pool on Apple Street was built.

When the new pool opened, Kathy was director of the Learn to Swim program, and created a water adjustment program that was adopted by the National Red Cross. Until then, the Red Cross only allowed children to begin swimming lessons at age 7.

Kathy was an aquatics pioneer, advocating for infants and toddlers and special needs swimming lessons before it was widely accepted. She coordinated the Riley Super Swim, and was awarded the James Whitcomb Riley Volunteer Award in 1984.

In 2014 Kathy began serving on the Greenfield Parks and Recreation Board, and was thrilled to become part of the Greenfield Aquatics Task Force, which helped create the Splash Pad in 2018 and renovate the Riley pool in 2019.

Ever radiating positivity, especially in the face of adversity, Kathy has served as an inspiration to all who have known her.

*"Remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."*

- A. A. Milne



**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**

