Merrill and Louise Frick are longtime residents of Wawaka, Indiana, where Merrill serves as president of Frick Services, Inc., a provider of wholesale and retail farm supplies and grain storage. He has been active with Frick Services and its predecessors since 1948. At Notre Dame, Merrill is a member of the Rockne Heritage Fund Director’s Circle. The Fricks have three children—Gretchen, Janell, and Dan—and nine grandchildren, four of whom are Domers: Adam (’01), Emily (’04), Amanda (’08), and Daniel (’10).

The Merrill B. Frick Family Endowment for German Studies fills a vital need in the programmatic expansion and renewed interest in area studies. Comparative cultures and societies are receiving attention at Notre Dame, as are many cross-disciplinary fields. Materials falling into the realm of Germanic studies often must be acquired from Europe, and thus are subject to high costs and unpredictable exchange rates. The Frick Endowment has helped the libraries to acquire Germanic studies materials despite these sometimes daunting obstacles. Through this endowment, the libraries acquire general German literature, including new fiction, criticism, and multi-volume sets, which are in demand by a variety of scholars at Notre Dame.

The Frick family has two additional endowments at the Named level.