

# DONOR STORIES

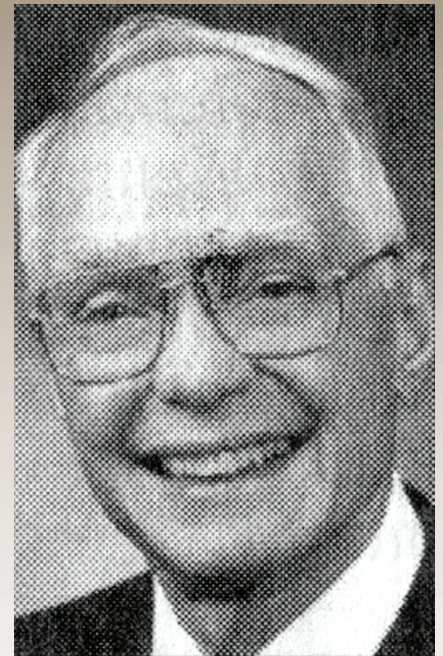
ROBERT MCKINSTRY

## “The McKinstry Family Fund”

A Waterloo native is often aware of the McKinstry contribution to education in this area even before meeting Robert McKinstry, retired banker. Bob's parents set the stage as community activists in education and he has followed as a volunteer and friend to the community in many capacities.

Bob McKinstry is a life-time resident of Waterloo and well-aware of the significance of his parents' contributions in his hometown. He was the middle son of three boys to Charles S. and Bernice Edleman McKinstry.

Bob was a baby of the 'Roaring Twenties' (1926) and a 1944 graduate of Waterloo's East High School. After high school, Bob enlisted in the Navy and then entered Iowa State, graduating in '51 with a degree in General Engineering. He married Jean Chapman, a West High graduate, in Norfolk, Virginia, and the two of them headed back to Waterloo, Iowa, to begin their family and future in Waterloo. Bob's 39 year career in banking, remarkable in today's transient jobs market, gave him the distinction of owning the third largest 'hitch' in the National Bank of Waterloo.



ROBERT MCKINSTRY

*Bob recognizes his responsibility as a citizen in promoting the community by donating both his time and financial support.*

Bob and Jean raised three children, who are also graduates of Waterloo schools. Steve, currently of Cedar Falls, Iowa, is an accomplished tennis professional, and past pro for the Waterloo Tennis Club. Daughter Kay and husband, Steve Elfritz, Waterloo, Iowa, have five children. Third child Ann and her husband, Charles Luepke, live in Lakeville, Minnesota, with their three boys. Jean passed away in September, 1996, and Bob has busied himself with being an important role in the lives of his grandchildren, especially those lucky enough to live close to him.

Bob is quick to acknowledge his parents' influence on his life. His father, Charles S. McKinstry, for whom McKinstry School is named, was born just before the turn of the century in Rowan, Iowa. He moved to Cedar Falls as a boy, served in the Air Force during World War I, and returned

to this community where he began his long career in banking. He started as a cashier at Commercial National where he continued his career through the bank transition to National Bank, eventually serving as President. As Bob recalls, his father was

the last employee of Commercial National and the first employee of National Bank. Bob's mother, Bernice, served as a nurse's aide at the "old" St. Francis Hospital, volunteering during World War II. Later she became a school teacher. In addition to Bob, Charles and Bernice also raised sons Dick (killed in Korea in 1951) and Jim, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Like many who are active in the community, Bob recalls that his dad wasn't home a 'whole hell of a lot!' And no wonder. He helped organize the local American Legion and its purchase of the building for its hall. He served as president of the Waterloo School Board for all but two years of his 14 year term. He was also active in the Iowa State Guard and the Community Chest (now known as the United Way). And of course, his career with the bank was plenty time-consuming. Yet, Bob also remembers that when his dad was home, the boys had lots of fun with him.

So, what does a person do for the community when you have such a community-minded role model for a father? Continuing the legacy has been Bob's community response. He has nearly a tenure-track with the local Junior Achievement program — volunteering for 24 years and serving nearly 20 years as the board's treasurer, often working seven to eight nights per month. Like his father, he has been active with the United Way. He has also served in an advisory capacity for Hawkeye Community College and on his church board.

In addition to contributing countless hours of his personal time to programs he believed in, Bob and his family have made financial contributions to the organizations which have impacted their lives or the community in which they live. Some of his favorite beneficiaries have included his Iowa State fraternity (Delta Upsilon), Allen Memorial Foundation, and the Community Foundation. Not unlike other philanthropists, Bob admits that "reducing the tax bite" is often the impetus for charitable giving. At the same time, Bob feels a bit awkward about the responsibilities of his inherited wealth and feels obligated to look for good use of the money. He fondly remembers his mother's fiscally conservative nature and wonders if a bar graph would have convinced her of the benefits received from charitable investments.

Bob is quite an advocate for the Community Foundation's role in our community. He is impressed with the full board decision-making and the fact that it involves contributions which impact people locally. The monitoring and distribution of the allocations has been top-rate, in his opinion. Through the two McKinstry Family Funds, the Community Foundation has responded to many needs in the community over the years including the areas of arts, human services, education, community development, historic preservation, environment, and health. As a result of recommendations by Bob for grants from the Advised Fund, the Community Foundation has also responded to the needs of Bob's fraternity and supplied funding for special projects like neighborhood street lights.

Bob recognizes his responsibility as a citizen in promoting the community by donating both his time and financial support — and in doing so, he continues his parent's legacy.

\*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.