

DONOR STORIES



Kirk Gross Company

“Kirk Gross Company and Robert T. Buckley Family Fund”

Mr. Kirk Gross established the Kirk Gross Company in 1937 in a storefront in the downtown area of Waterloo, Iowa. Gross began his business as a furniture provider for area banks. After he understood the needs of his customers, he recognized a niche market for providing building services within the financial industry.

Due to failing health, in 1970, Gross sold the company to Dick Zahn, who brought Gross's nephew, Jerry, into the company. Zahn and Jerry Gross continued the furnishing business and further developed the bank building business in conjunction with independent architects and contractors. In 1972, Kirk Gross Company brought registered architects and a construction staff into the organization. At last, complete turnkey services of design, construction and furnishings were available from a company of single-source responsibility.

In 1979, Robert T. Buckley joined the company as a sales representative. Buckley purchased the company from Jerry Gross in 1987 (Dick Zahn had retired in 1982). He added new technology into every facet of the business, allowing Kirk Gross Company to provide a superior level of service to its customers. The company has tripled in total sales volume under the leadership of Buckley and expanded from Iowa to a regional-based company.

The Kirk Gross Company and Robert T. Buckley Family Fund was established at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa to provide scholarships for eligible children of Kirk Gross Company Employees and eligible Waterloo/Cedar Fall students.