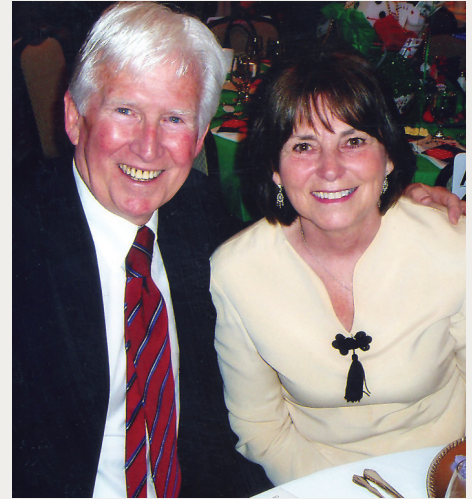


DONOR STORIES

PETER W. AND MARY ANN BURK “Peter W. and Mary Ann Burk Family Fund”

Peter William Burk and Mary Ann Bradley Burk began their journey in life in Western Iowa. Both of their great-grandfathers, from their fathers' side, found their way to Iowa from Ireland as an escape and search for a better life during the Ireland potato famine. Peter's mother's ancestry was also from Ireland while Mary Ann's mother's family were immigrants from Germany. Peter's father William Melvin "Ole" Burk was a salesman who eventually became a co-owner of B & F Sales, a business that sold cigarettes, tobacco and candy in Fort Dodge Iowa. Ole married Elizabeth "Betty" Tierney in Fort Dodge, Iowa and had five children, the oldest, Peter, being born November 26, 1938. Peter attended Fort Dodge public schools and catholic schools and graduated from St. Edmond's high school. After graduation from high school, Peter entered Creighton University, graduating in four years, after which he enrolled in the University of Iowa Law School, and earned his law degree in January, 1965.



PETER & MARY ANN BURK

Mary Ann was born September 27, 1942, in Mercy Hospital at Fort Dodge when her parents lived in Manson, Iowa on a farm. She was the third child out of eleven children of Lawrence J. Bradley and Irene Matilda Lang, who married during the great depression in the early 1930's. At the time of their marriage, Lawrence had a job at the Tobin Packing Plant in Fort Dodge, and did not dare miss a day of work, even on a Saturday, as many were lined up begging for jobs. As a result, Irene and Lawrence were married early in the morning by a priest in the church; thus, allowing Lawrence to get to work on time to keep his coveted job from going to another.

*“It is important that we
share what we can to
help others.”*

~Mary Ann Burk

Mary Ann and Peter's paths would not cross until Mary Ann, after attending high school first in Pomeroy Iowa, and then graduating from Rockwell City High School in 1960, was a freshman at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, where she received a full tuition scholarship. It was Good Friday, April, 1961. Peter was a freshman law student and both were home for Easter break and each went with friends to a popular spot for college students in Fort Dodge called Anvers Lounge. A long series of letters and dating followed. Mary Ann graduated with her Bachelor of

Science in Medical Technology in May, 1964, and they were married in St. Francis Catholic Church in Rockwell City on August 29, 1964. Their first home was the married housing in Iowa City, an army quonset hut, with make-shift furniture from old army cots and dyed sheets for covers to make a sofa.

Mary Ann took a job at the University of Iowa Hospital working in the chemistry lab while Pete finished his last semester of law school. Pete took a job with the Gallagher Law Firm in Waterloo upon graduation, and Mary Ann became a medical technologist in the lab at St. Francis Hospital, then located on Independence Avenue.

Their son, Patrick Thomas, was born July 19, 1965, while they were living in an apartment complex behind what was then a grocery store called Dunkles, on Byron Ave. In 1967 the family moved to 375 Derbyshire Rd, buying the home from John and Doris Bragdon. Mary Ann continued working part time until a few months prior to their daughter, Colleen Marie who was born on September 17, 1969. Mary Ann became a full time mother and homemaker and began a career of volunteering for a variety of causes.

Pete and Mary Ann took a lead role in promoting the magnet school, Grant Elementary made up of 50% black and 50% white students in East Waterloo. Patrick was in the first class of Grant and attended through his 6th grade when he went on to St. Edward's school and then on to Columbus where he graduated in 1983. Colleen followed her brother to Grant, St. Edward and to Columbus where she graduated in 1988. Pat went on to become an attorney in West Des Moines and Colleen became an audiologist working in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Chicago, and eventually in Denver, Colorado. Patrick had one daughter, Kelly Lynn born September 30, 1986. Colleen and her husband David Kessenich had three children- twins Jack and Caroline born August 5, 2003 and Andrew born January 28, 2006.

When Pete started his own Burk Law Firm in 1976, Mary Ann helped him as secretary and Pat and Colleen helped clean the office. It was truly a family affair and the Courier did a feature story about it at the time. When Pete's brother Tom died at the age of 37 from a heart attack, Mary Ann took over helping at Tom's business, Hunter Employment and Kelly Services until it could be sold. Mary Ann then went on to take a position as the first Executive Director of Leadership Investment For Tomorrow, the Waterloo's Chamber of Commerce's Black Hawk County leadership program for young adults. During that time, she also started Young Leaders In Action, a similar leadership program for teens. She then took a position with the Waterloo Schools to start the Partners in Education program. While serving in this capacity she became the President of the National Partners In Education Association, started the Golden Apple Club, a partnership between the senior RSVP program to bring seniors as volunteers to mentor students in the Waterloo Schools. She also created a partnership with Big Brothers and Sisters and the Waterloo Schools to bring mentors into the schools. In 1993 she was asked and accepted the position as the first staff of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa (then called Waterloo Civic Foundation) as its first President & CEO. During her tenure there she initiated the Teen Trust program and was a co-founder of the Iowa Council of Foundations of which she became president, working with the group to create the Endow Iowa legislation to provide for nongaming counties to receive gaming dollars from the state and donors to Community Foundation's to receive a 25% state tax credit. In 1993, the Community Foundation had assets of \$500,000 and upon her retirement from the Foundation in May of 2012, the assets had grown to approximately \$60 million with annual grants of near \$5 million



Peter and Mary Ann at the Community Foundation's 50th Anniversary Donor Event

Both Mary Ann and Pete were and still remain active volunteers in the community. Some of Mary Ann's service included: the president/chair of the Junior League of Waterloo-Cedar Falls, United Way, the Friends of the Grout Museum, the Waterloo Cultural and Arts Commission and serving on the Board of Covenant Medical Center and Wheaton Health Systems. Mary Ann received various recognitions over the years, including the Salute Award for Woman, Briar Cliff Alumni of the Year Award, Nonprofit Leader of the Year, Women of Persimmon award and serving as the Grand Marshall for the My Waterloo parade. Pete, while practicing law,

also served the community in a variety of roles, including serving as the president of the Jaycees and the Family Service League and mentoring at the schools.

Mary Ann and Pete have had the opportunity to travel, and love to read, visit children and grandchildren in Des Moines, Denver and New York City, and spend time boating, gardening and relaxing at their lake home in Clear Lake where they enjoy entertaining friends and family.

Love of their community and causes that support making life better for all was the impetus for them creating the Peter W. and Mary Ann Burk Family Fund. "We have been fortunate to have had opportunities and doors open for us to enjoy a very good life, so it is important that we share what we can to help others", Mary Ann comments.



Peter and Mary Ann's son, Patrick, and his daughter, Kelly.



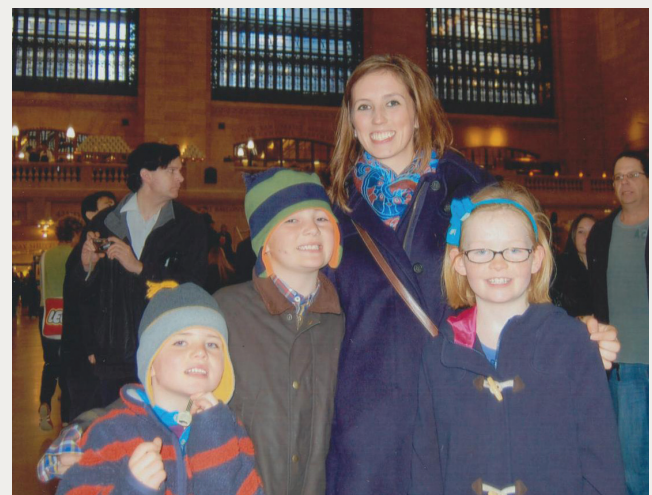
Grandchildren, Caroline, Kelly, Jack and Andrew



Colleen, Mary Ann's mother, Irene Bradley, and Kelly



Peter and Mary Ann's daughter and family; Jack, Colleen, Andrew, David and Caroline Kessenich



Grandchildren, Andrew, Jack, Kelly and Caroline