

# DONOR STORIES

## STEWART AND RAY STITCHMAN “Stitchman Education Fund”



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STITCHMAN

Stu Stitchman was born March 29, 1922 and was raised in Waterloo and graduated from West High. Ray was born on June 12, 1924 in North Carolina and later moved to Virginia. It was in Virginia while serving in World War II that Stu met Ray while at the service center of the church that they were both attending.

Stu's folks were Albert and Ethel Stitchman who came to America from England. Albert's first job in America was as gardener for Waterloo's Byrnes's Park.

During World War I, Stu's father, Albert, went to Canada and joined the Canadian Calvary. At that time, he met Stu's mother, who returned with him to Waterloo after the war.

Stu developed the love of gardening from his father and is currently taking care of 30 gardens at Friendship Village. He mentors children by helping them learn gardening, teaching them planting and the care of plants. He and the children also help the other senior residents at Friendship Village in the planting and maintaining of over twenty gardens.

Stu owned Heating and Cooling Supply Company now located on Broadway Street in Waterloo. At the time he owned it, it was on Black Hawk Road. His wife, Ray, served as Executive Vice President of the company.

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Stu speaks with great reluctance about his years during the war. He was part of the U. S. Navy serving on missions throughout the war. Stu was severely wounded during that time and was hospitalized for 16 weeks before he recovered. It was during that time that he first became aware of the excellent service provided by well caring nurses. Since that time, he's had cancer and heart problems – each time receiving excellent nursing care. He's become concerned over the years about the current and increasing shortage of skilled nurses. It is for this reason that Stu decided that he and Ray would establish the Stitchman Education Fund to provide an opportunity for students from Northern Iowa to enroll in nursing programs within the state of Iowa.

The Stichmans have given quietly throughout their life. The Stitchman Education Fund within the Community Foundation will be a permanent legacy to Stu and Ray's true giving spirit.

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