

# DONOR STORIES

CHARLES W. SHIREY

“Charles W. Shirey Fund”



CHARLES SHIREY

For many, it is their family members who express the value and importance of contributing to the community, really giving back to make their hometown better than it was. The Shirey family is no exception spending more than a century giving back to Waterloo and building solid foundations for growth.

Charles “Charlie” Shirey was born in Melrose, Iowa on Nov. 1, 1893. In 1894, his family moved to Waterloo to make their home and in 1900, Charlie’s father started in the concrete business. When Charlie was young, he helped to mix concrete and learned the value of dedication. From the very beginning through his graduation from West Waterloo High School in 1913, he worked as a finisher and contractor with his dad in the family business and learned to the value of honesty combined with hard work; a philosophy he carried with him until his death in May of 1984.

*By trade, Charlie was a man who worked hard to lay the groundwork for growth and development and he did the same for numerous organizations.*

In Sept. of 1914, Charlie enrolled at Iowa State College in Ames where he attended for two years until he was called to military service during World War I. On March 25, 1925 after a seven year interruption, he graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. On Nov. 28, 1922 he married Faye Suter in Sibley, Iowa; the couple was blessed with three children: Barbara, Vera and Craig.

Throughout the years, Charlie was with several companies both in Waterloo and in Florida and in 1937 he organized the C.W. Shirey Ready Mixed Concrete Business. Charlie’s internalized belief in hard work also extended to many community organizations with which he was associated. His collegiate Alma Mater held a special place in his heart and he served on the Cyclone Clubs, Alumni Associations, the Foundation, etc.

Church was an important aspect of his life and he served his congregation at Westminster Presbyterian Church; he was also a 12 year member of the Waterloo School Board. Charlie was also active in several other community organizations.

By trade, Charlie was a man who worked hard to lay the groundwork for growth and development and he did the same for numerous organizations; in fact, his philosophy inspired his son, daughter-in-law and grandson to expand upon the efforts of the Community Foundation throughout Northeast Iowa. The Shirey family has given much to this community in terms of time and talent; perhaps as the most important, Charlie gave the passed-on legacy value of making an honest, lasting difference.

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