

DONOR STORIES

ROSS & PATRICIA CHRISTENSEN

“Ross D. Christensen Family Fund”

Dr. Ross Christensen was born in Atlantic, Iowa, in the home in which he grew up. His father, Svend, immigrated from Denmark and his mother, Kaye, immigrated from Scotland with her family.

Dr. Christensen left Atlantic and received a BS and DDS from the University of Iowa, then his Masters in Orthodontics in 1966.

He and his wife, Patricia (Catron), met during a summer visit home in Atlantic and married on September 2, 1962.

Ross and Patricia came to Waterloo in July 1968 from Bethesda, Maryland, with their three children, Greg (9/23/65), Lisa (2/6/67) and Sheryl (7/13/68). They moved back to Iowa because of an orthodontic practice opportunity, and they felt that the quality of life here would be beneficial to their young family. The family orthodontic practice was successful, and in 1994, Greg officially joined the practice. Additionally, the Christensens owned Heartland Inns until 1998, where Pat served as the marketing director from 1983-1994.



ROSS D. CHRISTENSEN

“Both Ross and Pat grew up believing one should give back to their community and church.”

Ross was said to be an idea man. He was also loyal to his family and community. In addition to his longtime career as an orthodontist, he was also a community leader. The Christensens’ involvement in the Waterloo community is extensive. Organizations they have volunteered with include Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation (previously the Civic Foundation), Allen Hospital, Waterloo School Board, Wartburg College, LIFT, WIDA, CVEDC, University of Iowa, Danish Museum,

Community National Bank, Arboretum, Livingston Aviation, McElroy Trust, Young Life and Silos and Smokestacks. Both Ross and Pat grew up believing one should give back to their community and church.

Ross passed away on November 27, 2011 at the age of 71.

The Christensens set up the Ross D. Christensen Family Fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa because they wanted to be able to continue to give back after they were gone. Now, their fund will continue to support worthwhile causes in their community forever.