

DONOR STORIES

WILLIAM & NORMA HERVEY “William Hervey Memorial Fund”

Bill always had a heart for service, locally in Winneshiek County as well as nationwide.

William (Bill) H. Hervey, the son of Donald and Dorothy Hervey, was born in Butler, Pennsylvania, on August 6, 1925. With the onset of the Great Depression, Hervey’s family continuously moved around Pennsylvania, settling wherever his father could find work. His family finally settled in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1938.

A short while later, in 1943, Bill enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers. He served in the South Pacific, the Battles of Leyte Gulf, the Philippines, and Guam.

Upon returning to the United States, Bill attended Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1949 with Bachelor of Arts majors in economics, accounting, and English.

Bill spent several years as an accountant, but quickly transitioned to a career in technical writing. He was in the Research Division of the Firestone Company when he met his wife, Norma. The two married in 1955 and settled in Ohio. While in Ohio, the couple had their first child.

In 1957, Bill, Norma, and their son, moved to Olean, New York, for Bill’s new position with Dresser Industries. Bill stayed with Dresser Industries from 1957-1980, which included service as the chair of the industrial division during the construction of a new hospital. Alongside Bill’s successful business operations, Bill and Norma experienced joy at home with the birth of five additional children, totaling three sons and three daughters.

“Bill has always had a heart for service.”

While in New York, Bill’s caring nature shown through as he served on the Camp Fire Girls Board of Directors, as co-chair of the program of the Experiment in International Living, and welcomed an inner city child, Victor from the Fresh Air Fund program in New York City, into the Hervey home. Victor spent his summers with the Hervey family from ages five to seventeen and continues to be considered a member of the family today.

In the 1980s, Bill and Norma made a move to St. Peter, Minnesota, due to Bill’s health problems. In Minnesota, Bill served on the Nicollet County Mental Health Board and the St. Peter Co-op Board of Directors.



In 1988, Norma's career led the couple to Decorah, Iowa. At this point in time, Bill's health prevented him from playing an active role in the community. He did, however, participate in the Spectrum Adult Care program as well as a Mayo Research program.

In remembrance of Bill and to continue his legacy of serving others the Hervey's established multiple funds such as: the William Hervey Memorial Fund, as well as a scholarship at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

The Hervey's also created a scholarship at the University of Washington as a memorial to their son, Bill.

The William Hervey Memorial Fund is established with the Winneshiek County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa (CFNEIA). Income from this fund will go to the Barthell Eastern Star Home in Decorah, Iowa, for maintenance of Gerri's Garden and Gazebo. The garden was dedicated to the home in memory of Norma's mother, Geraldine Hicks.

The fund is designated for the Barthell Eastern Star Home, because the Hervey family wanted to give back to a location that provided their family members with great, long-term care. The Hervey family chose the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa for their charitable giving, because it had a structure that fit the philanthropic goals of the family.

Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.