

DONOR STORIES

PAULINE R. BARRETT “Pauline R. Barrett Fund”

Pauline R. Barrett born December 16, 1921
Sterling A. Barrett born November 12, 1908, died 1981



PAULINE R. BARRETT

Pauline R. Barrett was born December 16, 1921, (the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party) in Calhoun County, Iowa, to Chester & Sarah Rockufeler. After graduating from school, Pauline went to Fort Dodge Tobin Business College. After leaving the college, she worked at the Rockwell City, Iowa Farm Bureau for two and a half years. In 1943, Pauline came to Waterloo, Iowa, to be closer to her parents.

Pauline visited with Mr. Gates at Gates Business College. He suggested that she either go to work at John Deere or Rath Packing Company, and suggested as a first choice Rath Packing Company. Pauline was interviewed by Ray Becunier (Dick Becunier’s father) at Rath Packing Company, was hired and after six weeks began work for Ray Paul (Jack Paul’s father) the Vice President and Director of the company. Pauline was Ray’s private secretary for 14 years until Ray’s death resulting from a car accident where a young person ran a stop sign and hit Ray’s car.

In 1956, Pauline started to to work for L.M. “Doc” Kyner at the Rath Packing Company. She worked for Doc Kyner for three years and in 1960 retired from Rath Packing Company after 17 years of employment. On November 12, 1954, (her husband’s birthday), Pauline married Dr. Sterling “Archie” A. Barrett who was an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. Archie was 46 years old and Pauline was 33 years old. This was the first marriage for both of them. It lasted for 26 years until Dr. Barrett’s death. Pauline Jokingly says, “and they said it wouldn’t last.”

“Pauline believes the Foundation will continue to help the community in ways that other non-profits can’t by providing grants to the diverse needs of the community.”

Pauline, whose maiden name is Rockufeler (which could be another spelling for Rockefeller), said that Archie loved to tease her and her friends, saying that when he married Pauline he thought she would own an oil well, but after they married, he found out that she didn’t even own a 3-in-1 can of oil!

Dr. Barrett was from Fayetteville, North Carolina. After attending Chapel Hill for five years at the University of North Carolina, he transferred to Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and graduated from medical school in 1934. Dr. Barrett interned at Cincinnati General Hospital and specialized in EENT at Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. After specialization, Dr. Barrett came to Iowa because of the opportunity for employment, eventually becoming a partner in the Reuling, Bender and Barrett practice on the seventh floor of the Black’s building. He retired from his work in 1972. Archie died at

the age of 73 after nine years of illness with arthritis and arthritis-related problems. He spent his last year in a wheelchair and suffered greatly from the pain caused by his illness. Pauline was always at his side, helping him through this difficult time.

Prior to Archie's illness, Pauline and Archie had a wonderful life together and had the opportunity to travel throughout the United States and Canada, made their first trip to Europe in 1960, and visited Asia in 1967.

Pauline and her husband had given back to their community by sharing the great talent and resources they have been fortunate to receive. Dr. Barrett was a generous man and provided for scholarships (that are ongoing today) for students going into the medical field. Pauline continues the stewardship that she began many years ago by supporting many worthwhile activities in the community. Pauline is on the Board of Trustees for the YWCA, past member of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa Board of Trustees and the covenant Medical Center Foundation Board. She was also past elder of her church, the First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo, as well as has served as secretary of her church's foundation board. Pauline has been a member of Beta Sigma Phi since 1944 and has been a member of Rebekah Lodge since 1942. Pauline's generosity in supporting charitable organizations goes back to her family background where she says her parents mentored her in a caring attitude to support those in need.

Pauline explained that she established a fund with the Community Foundation after seeing how the Board of Directors at the Community Foundation operated. "I believe in it! It's a good way to cut the hassle and make giving easy," she said.

Pauline believes the Community Foundation will continue to help the community in ways that other non-profits can't by providing grants to the diverse needs of the community that include not only human services, but also arts, culture, education and others.

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