

Tom and Judy Love

Fulfilling Charitable Goals

For Tom and Judy Love, their road to becoming effective philanthropists began in 1964 when they leased an abandoned filling station in Watonga, Okla.

From this stark beginning their family-owned and operated company, Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, has grown to include more than 260 locations along interstates and highways throughout the United States and is one of the country's top privately-owned companies. It is thanks to this success that the Love family has in turn made a real impact on the community through their philanthropy.

In 1999, the couple established the Love Family Affiliated Fund. In recent years, the family has directed a number of their Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores locations to their fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The monthly lease income from each location generates cash that is used as charitable distributions from the Love Family Affiliated Fund.

Through the fund, the Love family recommends grants to a variety of nonprofits including faith-based institutions such as Bishop McGuinness High School. The ties between the school and the Love family run deep. Judy graduated from what was then known as Catholic High School in 1955. Judy and the couple's four children – Greg, Laura, Jenny and Frank – are all graduates and four grandchildren are either currently attending or recently graduated. In 2004, Judy was named the Bishop McGuinness High School Graduate of the Year and in 2010, the renovated gymnasium was named in memory of Judy's father, Edmund McCarthy.

"Charitable giving is important to us because we have been so blessed that we feel it is very important to share with others," explains Judy. "The Oklahoma City Community Foundation has done an impeccable job in helping us fulfill many of our charitable endeavors."

Tom and Judy Love are joined by two of their four children, Jenny Love Meyer and Greg Love, and granddaughter Liza Cameron in the McCarthy Gymnasium on the school's campus. The Love family is a longtime supporter of the school. Greg served as co-chair of the rebuilding campaign for the gymnasium that is now named for Judy's father, Edmund McCarthy. *Photograph by Brandon Snider Photography*

