

IMPACT

WILLIAM E. & MARGARET H. DAVIS FAMILY FUND

A Family Enterprise creates a Family's Legacy

When William and Margaret Davis started the William E. Davis and Sons food distribution business in the 1950s, it was truly a family business. The couple and their six children – three boys and three girls – had active day-to-day roles in the company. As the business grew, so did the family's support of charitable causes and organizations in the community.

When the company sold in 1986, the family discussed creating a private foundation to continue their philanthropy. Instead, after consulting with their professional advisor, they decided that creating a permanent endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation was a better alternative. In 1987, the William E. and Margaret H. Davis Family Affiliated Fund became the first Donor Affiliated Fund created at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. With this milestone, the Davis family illustrated to other families and individuals in the community how they could accomplish their charitable goals without the worry of administrative details and reporting requirements of operating a private foundation.

Charles T. Davis, one of the six siblings, says after the sale of the company, his father wanted to continue giving back to Oklahoma City but in a larger way.

“This affiliated fund concept allowed us to develop an endowment for giving in the way we wanted to give,” Charles said. “The foundation gave us all the flexibility needed to achieve our philanthropic objectives and has been very cooperative in allowing us to enjoy and accomplish those objectives.”

Each year, the family gathers to discuss and make grant recommendations. Since the fund was established, the family has recommended grants in excess of \$1.6 million to charitable organizations and projects that benefit the community.

One project the family has continually supported is the park system in Nichols Hills, especially the Margaret H. Davis Park. After selling the company, Mr. Davis sought a way to honor his wife, Margaret. The park was directly across the street from the family's home on Larchmont Lane and was frequented by their children while growing up. Improvements were made to the park including a statue of children playing. The park was dedicated on July 13, 1988. Mrs. Davis was able to enjoy the park before her death in 1990.

“The park was an identifying part of our family, we all spent a part of our lives there,” said Charles. “The park provided my father the double benefit of honoring her while also creating a better park for public use.”

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Charles T. Davis



William “Bill” Davis is joined by five of his six children near the dedication statue in the Margaret Davis Park in Nichols Hills. From left to right: Richard, Anne, Charles, Bill, Porter and Marnie Davis Kennedy. Elizabeth Davis lives in California.
Photo by Brandon Snider

City Rescue Mission

Founded in 1960, City Rescue Mission is a faith-based nonprofit organization providing solution-based ministry to homeless and near homeless men, women and children in Oklahoma City. On average, the mission serves 410 people a day through providing shelter, food and social services including medical, dental and vision care. The mission's Bridge to Life is a five-step recovery program that addresses issues relating to anger management, spiritual development, dealing with addiction, life and work skills and transition from homelessness. It is the state's largest free drug and alcohol recovery program. The mission collaborates with more than 70 social agencies to meet the needs of its clientele. In 2012, in partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the mission opened its Impact Hunger Food Resource Center that allows referred shoppers to self-select items.

Since 1987, the William E. and Margaret H. Davis Family Affiliated Fund has recommended 17 grants totaling more than \$46,000 to City Rescue Mission.



City Rescue Mission's emergency shelter meets the most basic needs of its residents including food, shelter, clothing and hygiene items. A case manager is assigned to each individual or family and an assessment is performed to determine what needs to occur with the goal of providing long-term sustained success outside of the mission.

Donor Affiliated Funds are permanent endowments with fund balances in excess of \$1 million. These funds operate under a set of organizing documents and structure including naming trustees that are approved by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. Donor Affiliated Funds are listed on pages 16-21.