



Walter Stiller



Born in 1903 to German immigrants, Walter Stiller was known as a gentle and quiet man. A member of Zion Lutheran Church for 84 years, the longtime treasurer for Macklanburg Duncan was held in high regard by his employer and for some time was the only non-family stockholder at the company.

Soon after his death in 2002 at the age of 99, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation was notified that Mr. Stiller had included a significant gift — more than \$725,000 — in his estate to establish a fund with the direction that the money be used for general charitable purposes within the community.

It is Mr. Stiller and donors like him who have made unrestricted gifts to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation that make Great Grants and the Fund for Oklahoma City possible. Because of these donors, we are able to address emerging issues within our community and help to fund innovative programs such as the Oklahoma City University Clemente Course.

# Great Grants

## The CLEMENTE Course

Fifteen Oklahoma City residents who live below the poverty line took what may be a first step to improving their lives, thanks in part to a Great Grant through the Fund for Oklahoma City.

Through Oklahoma City University's Clemente Course, these 15 adults, ranging between the ages of 18–35, discovered a new belief system through an intense study of philosophy, literature, writing and composition and U.S. History. Taught by OCU faculty, the course is based upon the concept that the study of the humanities may encourage students to utilize more reflective and critical thinking versus emotional thinking.

To qualify for the course, the students' household income had to fall below the U.S. Census Bureau poverty levels, they had to speak

*A graduation celebration  
brought together Clemente  
Course students, teachers  
and sponsors.*



and write English proficiently and they had to commit to attend 48, 120-minute long sessions. Through a partnership with Oklahoma City Community College, the students earned nine hours of college credit with the successful completion of the course.

For Freddie, a 38-year-old unemployed man who participated in the class with his wife, the course offered an opportunity to learn and grow. “I am grateful to have experienced the Clemente Course,” he says. “I am applying much of the thought-provoking studies from the philosophy class every day. I feel more enlightened and awakened than I have in several years.”

For more information about Great Grants and the Fund for Oklahoma City, contact Sandy Wright at [s.wright@occf.org](mailto:s.wright@occf.org) or 405/235-5603.

# Helping Our Community

 Great Grants

The Fund for Oklahoma City allows the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to help organizations with projects that will have a positive impact on the community as a whole, such as the Oklahoma City University Clemente Course. This opportunity exists because thousands of donors, such as Walter Stiller, have made gifts to the Fund for Oklahoma City with one charitable goal in mind: to help their community.

Thanks to its donors, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation has established itself as a charitable leader in central Oklahoma. We work with individuals and nonprofit organizations to create permanent endowment funds for the benefit of the community.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation makes charitable giving easy, flexible and effective.

For more information on how you can help your community through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, contact us at 405/235-5603 or visit [www.occf.org](http://www.occf.org).



*Three Clemente Course graduates.*



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