

A portrait of Ruth Mershon, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white collared shirt and a dark tie. She is smiling slightly.

Ruth Mershon



Classical pianist Wayne McEvilly plays the Steinway grand piano provided through the Ruth Mershon Fund.

## Great Gifts

# A gift of music

As a practicing physician for 47 years, Ruth Mershon was a caring and dedicated doctor. Although she died in 2000, she continues to illustrate her compassion through an endowment established following her death.

A 1949 graduate of the University of Oklahoma Medical School, Dr. Mershon was a respected anesthesiologist who practiced first in Hutchinson, Kan., before returning to Oklahoma City in 1975. She retired in 1996.

Dr. Mershon was raised in a family that valued education and the arts. Her grandfather was a professor and her mother, Mabel Frances Adams Mershon, was an avid reader and a frequent visitor to the public libraries in the communities in which she lived.

In planning her estate, Dr. Mershon directed that all remaining assets of her retirement accounts be used to establish an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation upon her death. Today, thanks to Dr. Mershon's compassion, the Ruth Mershon Fund will support the charitable interests and gifts she valued during her life.

Thanks to a Great Gift from the Ruth Mershon Fund, the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library's impressive 46th Star Auditorium now features a musical instrument worthy of the space: a Steinway grand piano.

The gift was given in memory of Dr. Mershon's mother, Mabel Frances Adams Mershon, an avid reader who shared her appreciation of public libraries and music with her family. For the family members who recommend grants from Dr. Mershon's fund, the idea of providing a piano to the library was a perfect fit.

"The combination of the library and the piano was very attractive to our family," says Ginny Lawrence, Dr. Mershon's niece. "We felt it was a good match and will be a fine resource for the library and community for generations to come."

Since the library obtained the Steinway in the fall of 2005, it has been put to good use by Wayne McEvilly, a renowned

classical pianist who performs a series of free concerts as part of the library's Second Sunday Series. In addition, Mr. McEvilly uses the piano to teach a music enrichment class through the Downtown College Consortium.

The availability of the Steinway grand piano has also sparked interest among music groups and teachers who are interested in using the auditorium and piano for concerts and recitals.

Thanks to Ruth Mershon, whose gift of retirement plan assets established an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, future generations will enjoy the grandeur and music of the Steinway grand piano at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library. If you are interested in establishing an endowment, please contact us at 405/235-5603.

# Helping Our Community

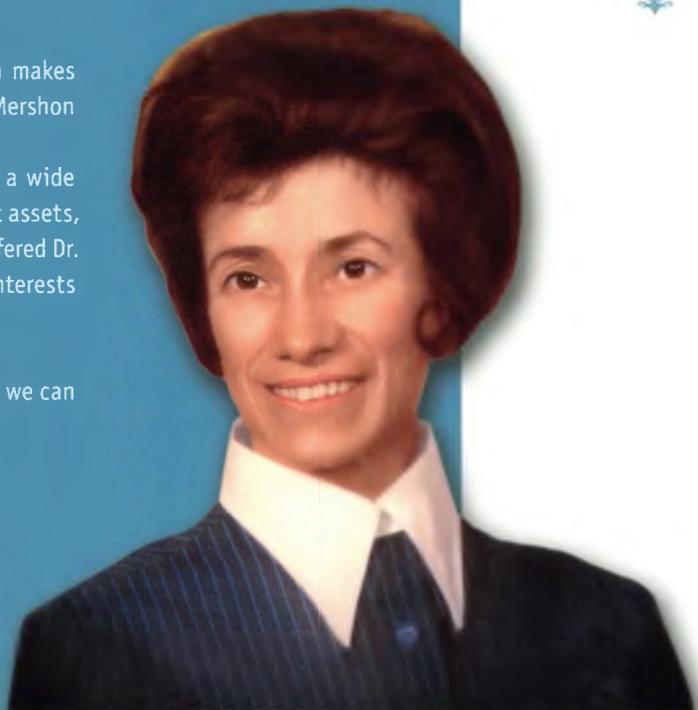
Through a Great Gift

## Ruth Mershon

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation makes establishing endowments such as the Ruth Mershon Fund simple, flexible and forever.

With the expertise and ability to accept a wide variety of gifts, such as retirement account assets, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation offered Dr. Mershon the assurance that her charitable interests would be supported forever.

Contact us at 405/235-5603 to discuss how we can help you help your community forever.



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