

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.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CITY RESCUE MISSION

Since 1987, City Rescue Mission has received grants totaling more than \$46,000 through the William E. & Margaret H. Davis Family Affiliated Fund. City Rescue Mission provides solution-based ministry to homeless and near homeless men, women and children in Oklahoma City. On average, the mission serves more than 400 people a day through providing shelter, food and social services.



To learn more about fund options, use your smartphone to scan the QR code or visit www.occf.org/fundoptions.html

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

