



A Note from Executive Director, Lisa Zimmers

Legacy

Legacy is a word that comes up in various settings. I've recently been on the quest to support my daughter in finding the right fit for her as she continues her post-secondary education. During the college selection process, applicants are often asked if their family members attended the institution of higher learning. These multi-generation students are referred to as a legacy student at many universities. Legacy status sometimes creates a pathway for preferred admission.

Another meaning for legacy refers to an amount of money or property left to someone in a will. Building a legacy for family members is not an uncommon goal. Most people strive to leave the world a better place and often focus on their immediate family as the benefactors. Creating personal financial security isn't something everyone experiences. Some individuals and families live week to week hoping they don't experience a major disruption in their lives. Unfortunately, most people encounter difficult times more than once in their lifetime. Legacy takes on an expanded narrative when applied to mission driven organizations. Committing to an initiative to enhance the lives of a particular group of people or change the outcome for a designated cause creates synergy. Legacy is imbedded in Life Enriching Communities. It's more than a name. In 1899 the Methodist Home for the Age was the first rendition of the current Life Enriching Communities. Although the location had to be changed due to multiple fires that destroyed the structure, the spirit of the mission wasn't extinguished. Early influencers responded to support the needs of those who needed support while they aged. The commitment from the early 20th century visionaries inspired others to join the cause. The leaders had the courage to move the location from the original site to the current location on Hamilton Ave. It has been such a blessing over and over that Obed and Amanda Wilson answered the call for a solution back in 1902. Their donation of 20 acres and \$10,000 dollars as well as their art collection laid the foundation for the organization as we know it today. It's remarkable that the much respected and renowned architect Samuel Hannaford and Sons donated their time and talent to work on the project. Thousands of lives have been touched by the generosity of these individuals and their impact will only continue to grow.

I'm hopeful to have created an atmosphere for my children and grandchildren so they will be armed with the tools they need to live well. Although tangible goods are important, my true hope is that they learn the skills they need to be happy people and a positive influence on the world. Aligning ourselves with things that are important to us that also contribute to the betterment of the world is where real magic happens. We all have the power to create a legacy that makes a difference if we have the courage to identify an opportunity and accept the challenge to change the outcome.

Blessings to each of you,

Lisa Zimmers