

Founder History:

Herman Daniel Leighty, the youngest of five children of the Isaac and Ethel Leighty family, was known as “Little Ike”, shortened to Ike. They were sharecropper farmers in western Illinois. In 1919, Ethel contracted tuberculosis. The family was forced to leave the expansiveness of farm life and moved to a small home on West Kelly Street in Macomb. Isaac was employed at the McClelland Laundry and took jobs as a day laborer. During the flu epidemic of 1921, when Ike was five, his mother died.

Isaac kept the family together, assisted by neighborly love and care from the Frank and Sadie Moon family. Mother Moon, as Sadie was known, melded the Leighty children with her own, seeing that they got to Sunday School, and had clothing, food, and friendship.

The Leighty children became a close-knit family, leading productive lives that made a difference, each in their own way. Wayne, the eldest, became a Methodist pastor, and a great spiritual resource to the family. Marvin was a hard working manufacturing manager. At age thirteen, Veda took on the responsibility of mothering her siblings, and then balanced a career and her own family. Freida, who had special education and other needs, became the focus of compassionate love for the family. Ike became a successful businessman, entrepreneur, community leader, and philanthropist.

Ike attended Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC, now University of Northern Iowa) for the school year 1934-35, where he met Marjorie Jane Gibson (Marge). In 1938 and with Marge’s encouragement, Ike resumed his education at the University of Iowa, graduating in Business, Class of 1941. Ike and Marge were married June 15, 1941. As a contracting agent with the War Department, based at the John Deere Waterloo Works, Ike began his long career in Waterloo.

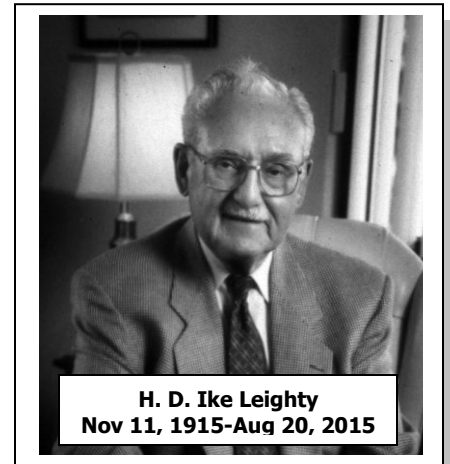
In 1944, US Navy Ensign Leighty was based in the Southwest Pacific, in New Guinea, Australia, and the Admiralty and Philippine Islands. Ike referred to his WWII years as a “game changing experience” in his life. In November, 1946, and as a Lt. JG, Ike returned to civilian life. He worked for Hinson Manufacturing Company as a salesman, and was soon promoted to Sales Administrator, in charge of finding new markets, developing new products, and managing a sales force. “Bill and Jim Hinson treated me like a third brother, bringing me into the Sunnyside Country Club and the Rotary Club,” Ike said.

With children Bill (1943) and Jane (1948), Ike and Marge moved into their new house in 1952. One of Ike’s passions was flying. He earned his pilot’s license in 1958, logging hundreds of business travel hours in the Hinson Company planes. He flew well into his eighties, a member of UFO – United Flying Octogenarians.

Marge died December 1, 1970. In a downsizing in 1973, Ike lost his job. He was 58. This freed his entrepreneurial spirit to “capitalize on a negative”, to begin a new career as a solo sales and marketing consultant. Ike met Joe Nelson who had invented the Filter Minder gauge for preventing over-servicing air cleaner elements. Ike and Joe, with Joe’s wife Fran, founded Engineered Products Company (EPC) in Waterloo in 1977, and began assembling the gauges on the ping pong table in the Nelson basement. As Ike would tell it, they had a negative net worth of \$64 the first year, and they made money every year after that. Ike’s decades of sales experience won orders for Filter Minders from the major truck, agriculture, and construction fleet operators, and manufacturers. Joe led new product design until he died in 1984. Ike bought Fran’s share of the company. The EPC team had become part of Ike’s “family”. Ike sold EPC to the employees in 1989.

Stewardship was one of Ike’s highest values. He held a strong commitment to sharing God’s great bounty entrusted to him by passing on the love and generosity he had experienced. In 1985, Ike established The Leighty Foundation. Progressively, he invited Bill, Jane, their spouses, and his grandchildren to join him on the board. The Leighty Foundation became a way for family to join with Ike in sharing their time and talent, as well as the financial resources of the Foundation. In 2004, Ike and Emile Leighty were married. Emile is a friend and valued Foundation advisor.

Ike’s final public appearance was July 21, 2015 at a Cedar Valley Chamber Alliance lunch, followed by an interview conversation with friend and retired Waterloo banker Joe Vich, on the subject of “leaving a legacy”. His closing challenge to the attendees was, “May you each find sufficient purpose for the priceless gift of life.”



2015-2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

COMMUNITY and HEALTH

Amnesty International
Asla Foundation
Baby2Baby
Blue Star Recyclers
CASA
Cedar Bend Humane Society
Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care Center
Chaddock Children's Foundation
Citizens Project
Downing House
EngenderHealth
Family & Children's Council of Black Hawk County
Gastineau Humane Society
Handicap International
Int'l Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Job Foundation
Let's Help Kids
Pikes Peak Community Foundation, GIVE Match
Friends of Monument Valley Park
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest & Hawaii
Rocky Mountain PBS
Rocky Mountain Women's Film Institute
Safe Passage Children's Advocacy Center
Save the Children
University of Alaska
Apostles Called To Serve Honduras
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Daniel's Care Van
Doctors Without Borders USA
Mary Bridge Children's Foundation
Safe Place
Shjon Podein Children's Foundation
SOZO International Ministries
Telita Cumi Home
The Gazette-El Pomar Fdn. Empty Stocking Fund
The Kid's Compassion Project
Urban Peak
YWCA of Black Hawk County

SPIRITUALITY

Ecumenical Social Ministries
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Ripe for Harvest World Outreach
Young Life

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Impact Online, Inc. VolunteerMatch

EDUCATION

Alaska Design Forum
AMVETS Post 49
Evergreen City Ballet
Hands On Children's Museum
Hartman Reserve Nature Center
Hawkeye Community College Foundation
KCTS 9 TV
McDonough County United Way
National Outdoor Leadership School
National Public Radio
Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program
Project on Government Oversight
University of Iowa Foundation
University of Northern Iowa Foundation
Wikimedia Foundation, Inc
The Women's Foundation of Colorado

EARTH PROTECTION

1000 Friends of Iowa
African Wildlife Foundation
The Alaska Center Ed Fund (AK Center for the Env.)
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Wilderness League
Cook Inletkeeper
Copper River Watershed Project
Discovery Southeast
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Eyak Preservation Council
Great Plains Institute
Inian Islands Institute, Inc
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Interfaith Power and Light
The Land Institute
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP)
Sitka Conservation Society
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Southeast Alaska Land Trust
Tides Center: Taku Watershed; SEABANK
Trustees for Alaska
Union of Concerned Scientists
Wilderness Society, Alaska
Wildlife Alliance

2015-2016 Grants

EARTH PROTECTION

Institute of Transportation Studies, UC Davis – Davis, CA

Graduate Student Fellow

PROMOTION OF PHILANTHROPY

Exponent Philanthropy – Washington, DC

General Support and 20th Anniversary Campaign

National Center for Family Philanthropy – Washington, DC

General Support

PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

A major funding area for The Leighty Foundation is building the capacity of our communities to effectively engage an increased number of volunteers. Program Director Jane L. Justis has initiated and lead the Pikes Peak Volunteer Engagement Initiative (PPVEI) in Colorado Springs, CO. It is a community-wide initiative focused on deepening nonprofit leaders' understanding of volunteer resources. Volunteer engagement is not a program but a critical strategy to assist all organizations in accomplishing their missions.

Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Providing for continuity of PPVEI in Colorado Springs, CO

Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration – Minneapolis, MN

Support for Volunteer Engagement Sessions at 2017 Summit

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, and EDUCATION

Chaddock Children's Foundation – Quincy, IL

Building Project

Operation Rainbow, Inc – Oakland, CA

Orthopedic Medical Missions for Children

Waterloo Development Corporation – Waterloo, IA

Cedar Valley SportsPlex

Direct Charitable Activities

PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT AND PHILANTHROPY

Jane Leighty Justis, Program Director, is active in leadership and work with local, regional and national organizations.

EARTH PROTECTION

Bill Leighty, Earth Protection Program Director, collaborates in energy policy research and presents papers at local, national and international energy conferences.

LEIGHTY HOME

The historic Leighty family home in Macomb, IL is owned by The Leighty Foundation. It is managed by the Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency as temporary housing for women and children, especially those recovering from domestic abuse.

THE LEIGHTY FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

To carry on the Leighty Family legacy of service and stewardship by leveraging our time and talents, as well as our financial resources, primarily in the areas of Earth Protection, Education, Promotion of Volunteer Engagement and Philanthropy.

GUIDELINES

The Leighty Foundation is a family foundation incorporated under Iowa law. We distribute grants and contributions to tax-exempt charitable organizations only. We are committed to the wise allocation of human, financial, and natural resources. We fund organizations that deal with today's problems and opportunities in ways which meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We increase the impact of our grants by investing in organizations that effectively engage volunteer resources to accomplish their mission.

We are a small foundation, and since we invest time in some way with most of our grantees, we consider only grant proposals that we have solicited. Please make initial contact by e-mail to Nancy Waterman, Managing Director, with a one-page letter that includes:

- the mission of the organization
- the intended outcome of the endeavor
- the need to be addressed
- the size of the grant requested

If your organization is invited to apply, you will receive a notice from us.

Most of our grant decisions are made during our summer board meeting. However, proposals may be considered at any time during the year.

Grants are usually made for one year or one project. Grants proceed from a formal proposal and range from \$3,000 - \$10,000. A written evaluation of the project is required from each grantee. Contributions are also made each year. The majority of contributions are \$500 - \$3,000.

We generally do not consider funding for capital projects. However, when we do, we are particularly interested in building design and energy efficiency, land use, and community planning – consistent with our dedication to sustainability and to sprawl prevention. If you are planning a capital project, please review our “Investing in Capital Projects” paper from our website.

The Board of Directors of The Leighty Foundation

Jane Leighty Justis, President & Program Director
William C. Leighty, President-Elect, Treasurer &
Program Director
Robert F. Justis, Vice President

Wayne W. Leighty
Heidi E. Reifenstein
Lisa M. Justis
Nancy J. Waterman, Secretary

Contact: Nancy J. Waterman, Managing Director
PO Box 20993 Juneau, AK 99802
nancy@leightyfoundation.org
Office: 907-586-1426

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year End 2016

Market value on August 31, 2016	\$ 6,017,628.
Funds distributed for Grants & Contributions	\$ 268,000.
Direct Charitable Activity expenses for Earth Protection; Promotion of Volunteer Engagement and Philanthropy	\$ 99,848.