

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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BISHOPS ESTABLISH DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN PEDIATRIC CARE

DALLAS – Nov. 25, 2002 – Kathyne and Gene Bishop have added \$500,000 to earlier donations to create a \$2 million endowment at UT Southwestern Medical Center to support the work of the chief medical officer at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

The gift to Southwestern Medical Foundation will establish the Kathyne and Gene Bishop Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Care, which will always be held by the chief medical officer at Children's, currently Dr. Brett Giroir, acting chairman of pediatrics at UT Southwestern.

The Bishops came to recognize the importance of the position, bridging UT Southwestern's pediatric faculty with the hospital, during years of experience with Children's as board members and parents of youngsters who were treated there.

"Gene and I became quite familiar with the excellence of the facilities at Children's early in our marriage," said Kathyne Bishop. "My daughter, Kathyne, who was being treated for acute lymphocytic leukemia, had the most marvelous care from Dr. George Buchanan (professor of pediatrics) and his team, notably nurse Cheryl Conatser Vandiver, during her three-year treatment there. Her illness included several near-death encounters that for us, as parents, still have a powerfully chilling effect on our memories. More indelible, however, are the poignant memories of the unbelievably compassionate and knowledgeable people at Children's."

A few years later, Gene Bishop's son, John, was diagnosed with hemophilia. Again, the family relied on UT Southwestern and Children's and what Kathyne Bishop described as the "extraordinary group of physicians, nurses and staff" in the hematology department.

"Both of these children are now healthy young adults. We feel extremely blessed that our family had the benefits of these outstanding medical facilities," she said. "We are well aware of the importance of these wonderful institutions and are delighted to fund this distinguished chair."

The Bishops are longtime Dallas civic and community leaders. In addition to their service

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on the board of Children's, Gene Bishop is an honorary trustee of both Children's Health Services of Texas and Southwestern Medical Foundation. He also is on the leadership council for UT Southwestern's \$450 million Innovations in Medicine campaign, which focuses on illnesses that afflict millions of people and are ready for breakthroughs, including pediatric diseases, birth defects and inherited disorders. Kathryne Bishop has served in numerous positions as well, including many years as a volunteer at Children's and currently on the silver anniversary board of the Godbey Series at Southern Methodist University and the advisory board for the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts.

Gene Bishop has served in numerous executive capacities, including chairman and chief executive officer of Mercantile National Bank, which became MCorp. A past president of the Dallas Citizen's Council, he has been on the boards of dozens of corporations, foundations and civic organizations including Southwest Airlines, Drew Industries, Liberte Investors and the Constantin Foundation.

"We love what is going on at UT Southwestern and Children's," Gene Bishop said. "I have been connected with Children's in all types of capacities, serving on the board and several committees. We are extremely happy to be able to give something for both these fine institutions. They fit perfectly with our first priority in charitable giving."

Giroir, who holds the Associates First Capital Corporation Distinguished Chair in Pediatrics and the Thomas Fariss Marsh Jr. Professorship in Pediatrics, said the Bishops' generosity will enable Children's and UT Southwestern to enhance their cooperative work on critical issues affecting children. "The unique combination of groundbreaking basic science at UT Southwestern and pre-eminent clinical programs at Children's affords us a unique opportunity to make progress in developing new therapies for children with severe life-threatening diseases," he said.

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said the Bishops have been loyal supporters of the medical community for several decades.

"Kathryne and Gene Bishop have been generous and farsighted in giving of their time,

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energy and resources, helping UT Southwestern and Children's benefit the lives of children throughout the area," he said. "We are extremely grateful to them."

George Farr, Children's chief executive officer and president, said, "The Bishops mean so much more to Children's than can ever be measured in dollars and cents. They have blessed us with the opportunity to care for their most precious resource – their children. Likewise, they have consistently fulfilled active volunteer and board roles for many years and continue to remain an integral part of the spirit and mission of Children's. We, and the children and families we serve, will benefit for many years to come from their friendship and the generosity embodied in this endowment."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said the endowment continues a valued relationship between the family, the medical center and Children's.

"The Bishops' generosity will enable UT Southwestern and Children's Medical Center, working in partnership, to expand our clinical and research programs that are so important to young patients," said Wildenthal. "Kathryne and Gene Bishop share a deep and exceptional commitment to our two institutions and to the welfare of children, for which we are extremely grateful."

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