

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Donihoo

214-648-3404

rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

Seays give \$10 million to strengthen pediatric programs at UT Southwestern, Children's, Scottish Rite

DALLAS – April 4, 2004 – Two of Dallas' legendary champions of children, Sarah and Charles Seay, have donated \$10 million to support pediatric emergency and intensive care programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Children's Medical Center Dallas, and upper-limb research at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

The gift was made to Southwestern Medical Foundation. Of the total, \$6 million will be used to support the UT Southwestern Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Comprehensive Center for Pediatric Emergency and Intensive Care. Children's will receive \$2 million for its wePromise campaign and hospital expansion, which includes the recent addition of new beds in its cardiac intensive care unit. Scottish Rite will receive \$2 million to establish the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Center for Excellence in the Care of the Child's Upper Limb.

"Sadie and I have supported children's causes for a long time, and so we are pleased to be able to further the wonderful research and clinical care being done at these three fine medical institutions," Mr. Seay said. "It's a tremendous pleasure for us to see our gifts put to good use, and we're proud to support Dallas medicine in whatever way we can. We always make our donations hoping that our support might inspire others to lend theirs as well."

Clinicians and researchers at the Seay Center at UT Southwestern focus on life-threatening and incapacitating pediatric illnesses and injuries: traumatic injuries; life-threatening infections, including meningitis and encephalitis; cystic fibrosis; severe asthma and allergies; and cardiac disorders, including congenital heart disease.

The Seays' funding will allow UT Southwestern physicians not only to continue to provide the largest volume of pediatric emergency and intensive care in the country, but also to recruit new specialists and undertake new research programs.

"Charlie and Sadie Seay's concern for children is truly unsurpassed," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "They are philanthropists in every sense of the word, and their sincere commitment to the medical center – and to the people of our community – humbles us. Their latest gift will allow us not only to continue in our mission to provide the best

(MORE)

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

Southwestern Medical School • Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences • Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School
Affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics

Office of News and Publications • 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas TX 75390-9060 • Telephone (214) 648-3404 • FAX (214) 648-9119

SEAY GIFT – 2

pediatric care in the world, but also to conduct research to develop life-saving new treatments for seriously ill children. The Seays have always shared a vision for a better Dallas, and they continue to draw us all into their dream.”

The couple has given more than \$31 million to UT Southwestern alone. The Seays previously endowed five centers, three distinguished chairs and four chairs – one in pediatric research, two in child psychiatry and one in pediatric infectious diseases – at the medical center. In addition a \$10 million gift from them in 1993 helped build the Seay Biomedical Building on the medical center’s North Campus.

At Children’s, the recently expanded 17-bed cardiac intensive care unit will be named for the Seays. Children’s is home to one of the most active cardiology programs of its kind in the nation. Patients in the cardiac ICU, the only such unit in North Texas, are treated for the most serious of conditions, from congenital heart defects to heart transplantation. Each year more than 600 cardiac surgeries (300 of them open-heart) are performed at Children’s, in addition to 635 interventional and diagnostic cardiac catheterizations.

“We are grateful for the long history of dedicated support that Mr. and Mrs. Seay have given to Children’s through the years,” said Christopher J. Durovich, president and chief executive officer of Children’s. “Their generosity is matched only by their sincere desire to help us make life better for children. Their most recent gift will impact the lives of countless children for generations to come and will inspire and enable us to continue our scientific, educational and clinical care endeavors in pediatric cardiac care.”

At Texas Scottish Rite, a world-class pediatric orthopaedic hospital, the Seays’ support will create an upper-limb research and patient-care center. The hospital already treats one of the largest populations of children in the Southwest with deficiencies of the hands and upper limbs resulting from birth defects or accidents. The Seay’s latest gift will allow the hospital to remodel an area designated for the new center and will provide funding for a recently established research and fellowship program.

“Through the generosity of the Seays, Texas Scottish Rite has touched and improved the lives of thousands of children,” said J.C. Montgomery Jr., president of Texas Scottish Rite. “Their generous support of our programs over many years has made an indelible mark on so

(MORE)

SEAY GIFT – 3

many, and we are eternally grateful for their devotion to pediatric medicine. This latest gift will allow us to bring our teaching, patient care and research efforts together to create an unsurpassed center that will undoubtedly help many children live happier lives.”

For nearly six decades the Seays have been patrons of pediatric health care in North Texas. In the early 1950s the couple helped fund the first pediatric intensive care unit in Dallas. In the 1960s the Seays enabled Children’s to establish the first pediatric psychiatric facility in the area, the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Center for Pediatric Psychiatry. Their donations in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s made possible the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Emergency Center and the Seay Intensive Care Unit at Children’s.

Since 1965, when they initiated a development program for children with dyslexia, the Seays have donated more than \$10 million to Texas Scottish Rite for a variety of leading-edge pediatric programs. Among other things, the Dallas natives have endowed four centers and one distinguished chair and have funded a literacy program at the hospital.

The Seays would say that they’ve always been a part of Texas. After meeting as students at UT Austin, the couple married in 1937. Charlie Seay began his career in 1936 as an insurance agent and spent most of his early career with Southwestern Life. He launched his own business 23 years later, an enterprise specializing in life-insurance common stocks. Securities later were added to the lineup, and the Seays’ business interests thrived.

The Seays also are avid supporters of animal welfare and arts, having given millions of dollars to organizations such as Operation Kindness (which named an animal shelter for the Seays in 1996), the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Dallas Center for Performing Arts Foundation.

The couple has four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

###

To automatically receive news releases from UT Southwestern via e-mail,
subscribe at <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept37326/files/37813.html>