

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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MEYERS SUPPORT JOINT PROGRAM BETWEEN UT SOUTHWESTERN, ST. JOHN EYE HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM

DALLAS – Nov. 29, 2001 – To help fund a joint program between the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas' Department of Ophthalmology and The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Ferd C. "Buzzy" Meyer and his wife, Carole, have named the Southwestern Medical Foundation beneficiary of a \$500,000 life insurance policy.

The planned gift will establish the Ferd C. and Carole W. Meyer St. John Endowment honoring Charles R. Hickox, K.St.J. (Knight of the Order of St. John) for his service to mankind through his support and commitment to the Order of St. John. Hickox heads the Dallas-area chapter of the Order.

The Order of Saint John has its origins late in the 11th century at the time of the Crusades, when poor pilgrims to the Holy Land were given help and assistance by the Hospitaller Knights and, when sick, cared for by the Knights and Brothers of the Hospital of Saint John. Since then, the Order has been dedicated to helping the sick and poor.

The gift will provide funds for stipends and travel costs for UT Southwestern ophthalmology fellows taking six-month rotations at the hospital in Jerusalem. One UT Southwestern fellow has worked at the hospital; one is still there.

The Jerusalem hospital treats eye-related diseases regardless of race, creed, social class or ability to pay, Meyer said. "The hospital benefits professionally from this rotation, and the Department of Ophthalmology benefits from the professional experience the fellows gain."

Dr. James McCulley, chairman of ophthalmology at UT Southwestern, said, "The Meyers' generosity will go a long way toward our securing full financial support for the continuation of our joint program."

"Mr. Meyer has been a strong supporter of Southwestern Medical Foundation and his naming us as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is yet another example of his benevolence," said W. Plack Carr Jr., president and chief executive officer of Southwestern

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Medical Foundation. "It is also a prime example of how other individuals can further medical research through planned giving."

Funding for Meyer's life insurance policy came from Central & South West Corp., where he was executive vice president and general counsel. With a degree in law from UT Austin, Meyer began his professional career in 1966 with Mathews & Branscomb law firm in San Antonio, where he worked for 20 years before joining Central & South West.

Planned gifts may be made using appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds or real estate. They also include charitable bequests, trusts or gift annuities that pay income to the donor with the principal going to charity. They can also be life insurance policies, such as Meyer's.

While the charity benefits from the gift, so do the donors, who may save on income tax, capital-gains tax or estate tax. They can also be used to increase income during retirement, provide an income to someone else, or allow for orderly distribution of the donor's estate to heirs and charities.

"Central & South West mandated that the benefit from this executive life insurance program go to an institution of higher learning. I would encourage all corporations to do this with their executives and board members. It's a great program," Meyer said.

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