

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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EDUCATOR DONATES TO MINERAL METABOLISM RESEARCH

DALLAS — March 26, 1997 — Reaching out to others was always part of the lives of Julius Truelson and his wife, the late Louise Truelson.

That's why Julius Truelson, a former teacher and superintendent of the Fort Worth Independent School District who refers to himself as a "school man," decided to make a \$50,000 gift in her memory to fund mineral metabolism research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"Louise and I together had already decided to give to Dr. (Charles Y. C.) Pak's work in our wills," Truelson said. "Then she died in December 1995. I asked myself 'Why wait?' and decided to give the money in Louise's memory now, so it could be put to use."

Truelson said he realizes the \$50,000 gift is just a "drop in a pail" compared with the needs for more research funding, "but it's a pretty big deal for somebody who's been a school man all his life." UT Southwestern first came to the couple's attention because of Truelson's childhood friendship with Dr. Charles Sprague, president emeritus of UT Southwestern and chairman emeritus of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "I've known Charlie Sprague since he was 1-year-old," said Truelson, who lived next-door to Sprague when they were kids.

When Truelson developed a bad case of kidney stones, he called his friend to recommend a physician. Sprague's answer was for him to see Pak. Later when Louise Truelson was suffering from osteoporosis, the answer was the same: "See Dr. Charles Pak." Both times Pak, director of the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, came to the Truelsons' rescue.

That's when the couple began to follow Pak's research in mineral metabolism with interest — and that's why they decided that they would like to help support it.

"You know research is much like teaching," Truelson said. "If you send just one

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schoolteacher to Paris, that teacher can come back and excite 1,000 kids about all the things to be seen there.

"It's like that with research, too. We can give just a little bit to help, but the results of that research might reach out and touch people everywhere."

In response to the gift, Sprague said, "If only the world were made up with more people like Judy (his childhood nickname) Truelson. He serves as a role model for all of us who feel the need to contribute something back to society. I am deeply touched, but not surprised, by this very generous gift from this 'school man.'"

Pak, who also heads the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research, said, "We are very touched by the generosity of the Truelsons." He said that in honor of the Truelsons the gift is being matched and "we will use the proceeds to support the training of postdoctoral fellows."

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