

LASTING IMPACT

A FAMILY'S UNSELFISH ACTS OF GRATITUDE



Debi Dubé-Dean just knew it was the right thing to do—the sharing of her lunch with classmates who regularly came without food to the west-end school in Saskatoon she attended so many decades ago. Her unselfish acts of generosity in grade school would be followed by many others on her journey to becoming a dedicated philanthropist later in her life.

The 68-year-old retired businesswoman's early acts of kindness were greatly influenced by her parents Leslie and Irene Dubé, founders of Concorde Group, and their willingness to help others even when their means were limited as they built the company during its early years.

"If someone needed a place to stay or food, my parents would always do the most they could to help that person out. Seeing them do this was a great influence and has shaped me into the person that I am today."

Debi and her husband Bill Dean have given generously to numerous organizations in our community. Both have been long-time supporters of Royal University Hospital Foundation and recently included the Foundation as a beneficiary in their Wills.

"Bill and I, along with our three children and 10 grandchildren greatly appreciate the wonderful care we have received at RUH," says Debi. "It is our wish to leave a legacy that enables medical teams at RUH to provide the best care available to future generations."


An important part in the writing of the couple's Wills has been informing their three children of their intentions.

"Our kids have never questioned our philanthropy at all and they are fully on-board with what we intend to do."

Debi and Bill have also encouraged their children to consider leaving a gift to community groups in their Wills when they are able to do so.

"Giving a gift, no matter the amount, that benefits people in the future that you don't even know is the most wonderful, loving, and selfless act one can do."

Debi adds: "I pray each day that I could help save the world from its many problems while acknowledging that any act of kindness is at least a start. That is why we consider it so important to help others."

Royal University Hospital Foundation graciously thanks Debi and Bill for giving notice that they have made provisions in their Wills to create a legacy of giving that will have a lasting impact on health care at RUH long into the future. 

REMEMBERED FOR HIS LOVE OF LIFE AND FOR HELPING OTHERS IN NEED

Gratitude. It's an important step one takes during their recovery journey from substance addiction.

Victor DeFehr knew how essential it was for him to help others and give back to the community because of the hurt he had caused himself and others for many years as a young adult.

"When Victor got clean and sober, he focused his efforts on helping people and became a wonderful teacher," says his mother Maggie DeFehr.

Victor passed away on April 11, 2022, at the age of 61, having suffered from Multiple Sclerosis for more than 20 years. In his Will, Victor left a generous donation to Larson House (now called the Brief and Social Detox Centre) through the Royal University Hospital

Foundation. His gift was put towards the purchase of new beds at the Centre.

"Victor wanted some money to go to Larson House in order to help someone or some family coping with the situation same as what he was once in," said Maggie.

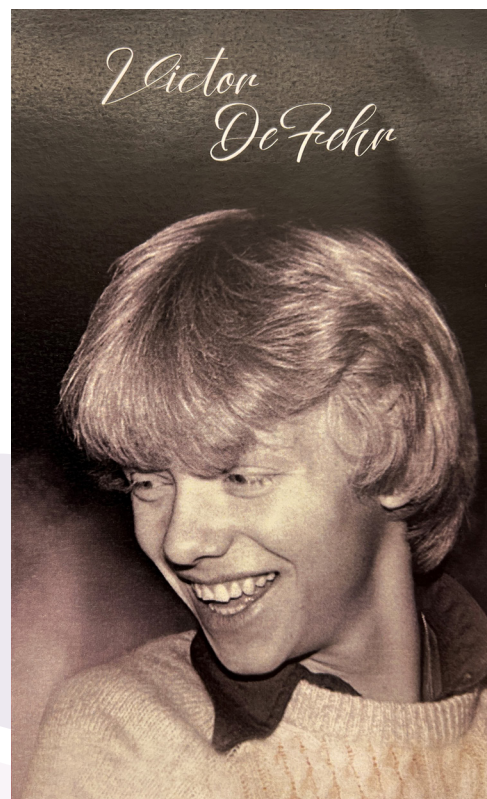
Reflecting on Victor's life, Maggie said he was a gifted student and participated in a wide range of sports during his elementary and high school years.

After a successful first year of university in 1979, it wasn't until 1996 that Victor graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics—a 15-year hiatus due to his struggles with addictions. In 1998 he gained his Bachelor of Education and teaching credentials.

"Victor believed the most important thing in life was access to education for everyone."

Maggie fondly recalls how her son would raid the family's library and when asked why he responded: "There is no little children's library at the school so I am building one."

After less than five years of teaching, Victor was forced to stop



due to the onset of MS and its debilitating effect on him.

Victor was never one to complain about his circumstances. According to Maggie, his love of life, as well as his suffering, will never be forgotten by those who loved and knew him.

If you are like Victor and want to show your appreciation for the care you or a loved one has received, please consider leaving a gift to RUH Foundation in your Will. Your gift will have a lasting impact on patients every day. 🌸



WRITING YOUR WILL MAY BE THE KINDEST THING YOU DO FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Excerpts of an article written by



Are you one of the 49% of Canadians that don't have a Will? Among the top reasons so many of us delay Will writing is the feeling that we're too young to worry about it, or that we don't have enough assets to justify making a Will in the first place.

Valid concerns. But there are some real motivations to making a Will you might not be aware of, regardless of where you are in life.

The consequences of not having a Will

Dying without a Will could have serious implications for your family. With no Will in place, your assets could be distributed according to the laws of your province, which may exclude certain family members like common-law spouses or step-children.

A Will is about more than just your possessions

Making a Will can be an opportunity to have an open and insightful conversation with your loved ones about life and legacy. For example, perhaps your community has always played an important role in your family's life, and giving back to your community is a value you all hold dear. You



Use the power of your Will to do more!

might choose to leave a small percentage of your estate, even 1% can make a difference to a charity, a contribution that future generations of family can rally around and continue on in their lifetimes.

So, why is writing a Will one of the kindest things you can do for your loved ones?


In a nutshell, it saves your family from unnecessary stress.

There is so much work to do when a loved one passes away, and at such a difficult time. Having your wishes made clear, and instructions laid out in your Will, can make a difficult time so much easier for the people you love.

And it's important to share your wishes with your family now so there won't be any surprises when you're gone.

Writing a Will doesn't have to be expensive. There are a whole range of options out there when it comes to making your Will. You may choose to use an online Will writing service if you have a relatively straightforward estate. Or choose a lawyer or notary if you'd like the advice of a professional who can give you more personalized advice (i.e. how to take advantage of tax incentives available when making a charitable gift in your Will).

To find local legal or financial advice, please visit willpower.ca/charities/royal-university-hospital-foundation/.

If you would like a copy of the **Will Power 4 Step Guide to Planning a Charitable Gift in Your Will While Still Supporting Family**, please contact Candace Boersma at 306.655.6501 or candace.boersma@ruhfh.org. 



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**To learn more about how to include RUH Foundation in your Will,
please contact Candace Boersma, Legacy and Major Gifts Officer, at
306.655.6501 or candace.boersma@ruh.org.**

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ROYAL LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

We would like to thank the following Royal Legacy Giving Society Members (formerly known as Guild of Friends) who have graciously notified RUH Foundation that they have made provisions in their estate plan through wills, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts and other means to create a legacy of giving to RUH Foundation that will continue long into the future:

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