

## A LETTER FROM MIKE AND MARY, FOUNDERS

The two of us were fortunate to come from families that taught us the importance of faith and generosity. It was ingrained in us to whom much is given, much is expected. And we hope that message remains part of the fiber of our family for generations to come.

Giving back has always been an important element in our life, even when we were living paycheck to paycheck. But things got exciting as our family progressed and we started to think big. How could we as a family affect change in our own community? How could we take our practice of giving to the next level?

What started out as a few informal dinner conversations has grown into a thriving, impactful family foundation. Our Foundation is not just a check-writing machine. The family and staff of the Foundation invest time, treasure, and talent with the goal to truly change lives for the better. We hope to encourage others in our community to get involved in any capacity they are able.

From the beginning, we wanted not only the best for our own children, but for all children. When we founded The Mike & Mary Terry Family Foundation, we envisioned it as an opportunity to partner with organizations serving the most vulnerable in our community, primarily children and the poverty-stricken. We wanted to fill gaps, remove barriers, and provide safe havens for those in need. We know education is a game changer. It can break the cycle of poverty. And we hope to see all people in our city have a roof over their head and a safe place to call home. These are the areas of greatest concern for our family.

While the Foundation has helped numerous organizations throughout the Metroplex, it also has been greatly fulfilling for our family. When we get out and serve as a family, we become more aware of the world in which we live. We get a sense of the organizations and people who really need our help. It takes us out of the bubble and puts us in the bowl. Just as we have taught our children: we are a part of each gift we give to someone in need. In a sense, we are the gift.

But, as Francis of Assisi once said, "For it is in giving that we receive." This statement could not be truer for our family. Meeting and engaging the people in our city has shaped, enlightened, inspired, and humbled us. We are neighbors, first and foremost. And, when we serve, we serve alongside each other for the betterment of our entire community.

We are so proud of what the Foundation has accomplished in its first 10 years and look forward to the years to come. We are proud of the commitment our Foundation has to strengthen our community and improve lives through the compassionate programs we support. Our dream is to leave a lasting legacy for our children and future generations to help those in need in Dallas. We would love for our children and grandchildren to continually grow and learn by serving others, and then take what we have done with the Foundation to the next level.

With God at the helm, we are confident that our family foundation will not only change individuals' lives, but change our city for the better.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike + Mary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Mike" is on the left, followed by a plus sign, and "Mary" is on the right. The ink is dark and the background is white.

Mike and Mary Terry  
Founders