

About the lead benefactors

William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Ruth and Bill Scott are deeply rooted and invested in the community where they have lived most of their lives and the state they call home.

Over the years, the Scott family has made extraordinary and transformational private investments in the University of Nebraska. Examples of their philanthropy are found on each of the four main campuses of the University of Nebraska statewide system, and they have been instrumental leaders in making the University of Nebraska Medical Center a world-class academic health science center.

In 2009, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents presented Ruth and Bill Scott with its most prestigious award, the Regents Medal, for their extraordinary contributions to the university's academic programs, scholarships and facilities.

Bill Scott is a 1953 graduate of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln College of Business. The Ashland, Nebraska, native joined Buffett Partnership in 1959 and Berkshire Hathaway in 1970, where he remained until the early 1990s.

Ruth Scott, also a native of Ashland, earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln in 1951. She went on to teach school and later founded the Omaha Bridge Studio where she teaches "the game everyone should play."

Weitz Family Foundation

Wally and Barbara Weitz began the Weitz Family Foundation in 2000. Since then, more than \$50 million in awards have been granted to support housing, arts, education and health organizations in Omaha, Nebraska.

The foundation works with grassroots agencies and large institutions that demonstrate vision, integrity, creativity and passion. It appreciates the use of servant leaders, so those it works with use practices that enrich the lives of individuals, build better organizations and create a more just and caring world.

The Weitz Family Foundation seeks to break the cycle of poverty in Omaha by empowering individuals, agencies and organizations to create a more equitable and peaceful society. The foundation seeks to identify and address the institutional and systemic injustices and gaps that fuel poverty. It seeks new ideas and innovations in social change to address the core issues.

Wally and Barbara Weitz have three children, Katie, Roger and Drew, and spouses of this second generation, Kate and Meredith, are foundation board members. The Weitzes have six grandchildren who may someday be more involved with the foundation as well.

Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation

Walter Scott Jr. likes to invest in excellence. Through the years, he and his late wife, Suzanne, have been passionate champions for numerous causes and projects that have improved the quality of life in his birthplace of Omaha and helped citizens across the state of Nebraska through their extraordinary support of the campuses of the University of Nebraska.

Nearly two decades ago, the Scotts were among the first to appreciate an emerging vision for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine campus. They have invested in nearly all the research-oriented projects since that time.

In addition to their philanthropy, the Scotts have been generous with gifts of time and leadership. Walter Scott has served as director of several community and national charities and as chair of the Board of Policy Advisors for the University of Nebraska Peter Kiewit Institute, Heritage Services and the Omaha Zoological Society. Suzanne Scott, who passed away in 2013, served as a director of the Omaha Zoological Society, Joslyn Art Museum and The Salvation Army, and she was board chair for United Way of the Midlands.

Walter Scott is chair emeritus and former CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc. He also is the former chair of the board of Level 3 Communications, Inc.

Hattie B. Munroe Foundation

Hattie B. Munroe came from a prominent Kansas City family. She married railroad executive John A. Munroe in 1888 and settled in Omaha. But early in her married life, Mrs. Munroe became disabled, perhaps due to a stroke. She lived with a disability for many years and was familiar with the issues facing people with disabilities.

She was intent on helping others, active in charitable causes, and often contributed anonymously. On many occasions she would pay the hospital bills of people in need. She was helped in her philanthropic efforts by Clara Elder, who was her secretary, possible caregiver and constant companion.

When Mrs. Munroe died in 1921, her will split her fortune between Elder and her husband. The pair purchased a property in Omaha that the Society for the Relief of the Disabled could use as a care facility for convalescing children. The Hattie Baker Munroe Home for Convalescing Crippled Children became the forerunner of today's Munroe-Meyer Institute, which this year celebrates its 100th year of transforming the lives of people with disabilities and complex health care needs. The Hattie B. Munroe Foundation continues its mission to support the institute's programs and services — and now its new home.