



Donor biography: 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.