A Legacy of Love

A Sister Establishes Endowment Fund to Honor PIH Health Founding Physician

Legacy gifts come in all shapes and sizes — and they’re often as unique as the individuals who so generously give them. That’s certainly true for Dorothy Dewhirst Kosowsky, who has taken a creative approach to her giving. She recently committed the proceeds from the sale of her home to establish an endowment fund at PIH Health Foundation — all to honor her late brother, James H. Dewhirst, MD.

Dr. Dewhirst was a man who cared deeply about his patients, the community and the far-reaching value of PIH Health. When he passed away in December 2013, the world lost a caring man, an advocate for a better future and a well-respected member of the PIH Health team. Sadly, he passed before he learned about his sister’s surprise plan — but those who knew him believe he surely would have appreciated the honor.

Not only did Dr. Dewhirst practice Family Medicine in Whittier and Hacienda Heights for 44 years, he was Chief of Staff at PIH Health Hospital - Whittier in 1981, on the Board of Directors for six years (1982-1988) and elected Director Emeritus in 1998. He retired in 2003. He lived and worked to make the world a better place, and his family is proud to help his life’s work live on.

“He not only helped establish PIH Health, the hospital was his second home and he was a strong advocate even after he retired,” said Dewhirst Kosowsky who helped raise her brother and describes him as the anchor of their family. “Creating the endowment fund is a way of honoring him because he loved family medicine so much. He really cared about his patients and would always put them first.”

The Dewhirst endowment fund will be used to support the PIH Health Family Medicine Residency Program to help provide services for the in-home healthcare program. As an open endowment fund, others can make contributions in Dr. Dewhirst’s honor.

“There are so many different ways to make an estate gift and this is one creative way to help someone’s legacy live on,” said Nicole Jackson, director, major gifts and planned gifts at PIH Health Foundation. “We are incredibly grateful to Mrs. Kosowsky for her generous estate gift and for so lovingly remembering her brother in this way.”

If you’d like to learn more about leaving a legacy through PIH Health Foundation or making a donation for the Dr. James H. Dewhirst Family Practice Endowment Fund, please contact the PIH Health Foundation at 562.698.0811 Ext. 81520 or by email at PIHHealth.Foundation@PIHHealth.org.

Through her generous donation and his dedication to PIH Health, Dorothy Dewhirst Kosowsky and James H. Dewhirst MD have both made a lasting impact on PIH Health’s Family Medicine Residency program.