



COMMUNITY SUPPORT CREATES EXTRAORDINARY TRAUMA CARE

In 1997, Dick Fleming and his late wife, Peggy (pictured above), established the Fleming Trauma System. It improves care for critically injured patients across the continuum by funding research that investigates injury from pre-hospital to rehabilitation as well as injury prevention. A part of the Fleming Trauma System is the Mattioli Trauma Center named in recognition of the generous gift from Drs. Joseph and Rose Mattioli. The interest generated from the endowment fund provides resources to enhance collaborative research efforts between the department of emergency medicine and the division of trauma to improve the care of critically injured patients.

New Children to Love

Bill and Mildred Gillingham support young cancer patients

A pair of tiny black-and-white photos—tucked away in a basement stairwell—are the only visible reminders of the two children Bill and Mildred Gillingham tragically lost. Memories of those children, however, burn brightly and are the inspiration behind the Allentown couple's special relationship with pediatric cancer patients at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Jean Alice Gillingham died at age 7 in 1966 after a short, courageous battle with lymphoma. Twenty-two years after this devastating loss, Jean's older brother, Bruce, was killed in a car accident at age 31. This second tragedy was almost too much for the Gillinghams to bear. "We cried and cried," Bill says. "We were angry and didn't know where to turn."

Then the Gillinghams learned about the exceptional care young cancer patients receive at Lehigh Valley Health Network. With a renewed sense of purpose, the couple decided to bequeath their entire estate to the health network's pediatric oncology department. "It gave us peace of mind to know that every penny we have would go to the health network in memory of our children," Mildred says. "That way we had lots of new children to love."

Married for 54 years and now both retired, the Gillinghams spend countless hours volunteering for nearly a dozen community organizations. Whatever they're doing, their thoughts are never far from the young patients struggling with the same challenges their daughter faced. "We hope in some small way we help the health network find new and better ways to treat these kids." Mildred says, "Because now they belong to us too."

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—MILDRED GILLINGHAM



RENEWED PURPOSE—After tragically losing both their children, Bill and Mildred Gillingham filled the void in their lives with a new purpose: supporting young cancer patients at Lehigh Valley Health Network.