

Recent Bequest Extends Couple's Mission

Every so often a community is blessed with people who embody the spirit of philanthropy, role models inspiring involvement and a passion for service. Bill and Anne Betz of New Tripoli were such people.

A life trustee, Bill served as treasurer of Phoebe's Board in the 1980s and early 1990s. He was involved in the start-up of Phoebe Berks Village, Phoebe Berks Health Care Center and Devitt House. Now, as Phoebe begins another significant repositioning and reinvestment phase, we have received a generous bequest extending the Betz legacy into Phoebe's second century.

We sat down recently with the Betz's daughter, Sylvia Gardner, and family friend Willard Snyder, who followed Bill as head of New Tripoli Bank, to learn more about the couple and the spirit of giving they embraced.

Anne made her mark with our residents by visiting Phoebe Home each week with the ladies of Ebenezer United Church of Christ, New Tripoli. "The work was so important to her," says Sylvia, "that she continued it well into retirement."

A community leader with strong and respected opinions, Bill recruited others to join Phoebe's

mission. One was Ken Morton, who continued to serve on Phoebe's Board until his death in 2006. Sylvia recalls a lesson her father taught her: "He always said, 'Don't be afraid to give away money.'" Bill Betz led by example, and he was not afraid to ask others to give, either.



William and Anne Betz

Willard remembers Bill as an exceptional storyteller, which no doubt helped him as he told the Phoebe story. The Betz family also experienced "the Phoebe Difference" personally through the care that was provided to members of their own family.

Most importantly, Bill and Anne Betz embraced what Willard describes as a "New Tripoli value" – that all people should be treated the same, regardless of their financial sit-

uation. This principal is at the heart of Phoebe's promise to everyone in its care. Our ability to keep that promise is strengthened to this day by the many gifts given over the years by this exceptional family.

Sylvia, who is especially interested in Phoebe's Culture Change journey and how it will improve quality of life for our residents, continues her parents' legacy of service as a member of Phoebe's Lehigh Valley Strategic Advisory Council. ■