

Philanthropy Pledge

Harold and Sue Ann Hamm

My family history of giving took root long before I was born. My father was in the ministry and was always finding someone in need of assistance that our family could help. As a child, it was sometimes hard for me to understand how we could give to others when we had so little, but over time I learned the importance of helping those who were unable to help themselves.

We live in an amazing country -- because of our capitalistic society and free enterprise system, I was able to work my way out of poverty. This process really began in high school when I discovered my passion for the oil and gas industry. My success in the industry has given me opportunities to help others discover and pursue their passions in life.

My family's philanthropic pledge will benefit the life passions for which my wife, Sue Ann, and I care so much: improving health care and educational opportunities for people in the U.S. and throughout the world. We are primarily focused on people whose poverty limits their health care and educational opportunities.

Sue Ann and I have been blessed with good health and education. Education helped me end the cycle of poverty in my family. We are grateful for the educational opportunities that we had, and we are passionate about helping to provide better educational opportunities for people in need.

We also share a passion for improving health care. After being diagnosed with Type II diabetes in 2000, I found there was a large need for a world-class research facility focused entirely on this disease and committed to finding a cure. We also needed a world-class institution to take the lead in educating the public and improving the level of care for adults and children with diabetes.

We want to eradicate diabetes in our lifetime. This disease has such a terrible impact on the poor and minority communities in America. To pursue a cure, we helped form the Harold Hamm Oklahoma Diabetes Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. We have committed not only our financial resources, but also our personal involvement to support the HHODC in finding a cure for diabetes.

The final focus of our family's philanthropy involves more humane treatment of animals. Sue Ann has been a prominent advocate in Oklahoma in working to eliminate the abuses of puppy mills and unregulated pet breeders. She was influential in supporting the 2010 passage of the Commercial Pet Breeders Act, which requires Oklahoma commercial pet breeders to be licensed and establishes minimum standards and enforcement for housing and care. We will continue to support decent care standards for pet breeding operations in our state and beyond.

We have always felt a strong obligation to lead by example. Through our giving pledge, we hope to encourage others to commit their time and resources to worthy causes that will enable other people with ambition and tenacity to achieve their goals.

We hope to extend this legacy of giving not only within our family, but also to all of society. We are humbled by what we have achieved and recognize the responsibilities that come with success.