

FOUNDER HISTORY:

Herman Daniel Leighty, the youngest of five children of the Isaac and Ethel Leighty family, was known as “Little Ike”, shortened to Ike. They were sharecropper farmers in western Illinois. In 1919, Ethel contracted tuberculosis. The family was forced to leave the expansiveness of farm life and moved to a small home on West Kelly Street in Macomb. Isaac was employed at the McClelland Laundry and took jobs as a day laborer. During the flu epidemic of 1921, when Ike was five, his mother died.

Isaac kept the family together, assisted by neighborly love and care from the Frank and Sadie Moon family. Mother Moon, as Sadie was known, melded the Leighty children with her own, seeing that they got to Sunday School, and had clothing, food, and friendship.

The Leighty children became a close-knit family, leading productive lives that made a difference, each in their own way. Wayne, the eldest, became a Methodist pastor, and a great spiritual resource to the family. Marvin was a hard working manufacturing manager. At age thirteen, Veda took on the responsibility of mothering her siblings, and then balanced a career and her own family. Freida, who had special education and other needs, became the focus of compassionate love for the family. Ike became a successful businessman, entrepreneur, community leader, and philanthropist.

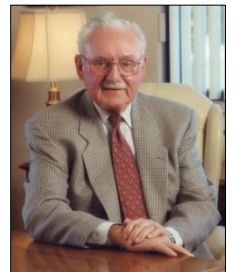
Ike attended Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC, now University of Northern Iowa) for the school year 1934-35, where he met Marjorie Jane Gibson (Marge). In 1938 and with Marge’s encouragement, Ike resumed his education at the University of Iowa, graduating in Business, Class of 1941. Ike and Marge were married June 15, 1941. As a contracting agent with the War Department, based at the John Deere Waterloo Works, Ike began his long career in Waterloo.

In 1944, US Navy Ensign Leighty was based in the Southwest Pacific, in New Guinea, Australia, and the Admiralty and Philippine Islands. Ike referred to his WWII years as a “game changing experience” in his life. In November, 1946, and as a Lt. JG, Ike returned to civilian life. He worked for Hinson Manufacturing Company as a salesman, and was soon promoted to Sales Administrator, in charge of finding new markets, developing new products, and managing a sales force. “Bill and Jim Hinson treated me like a third brother, bringing me into the Sunnyside Country Club and the Rotary Club,” Ike said.

With children Bill (1943) and Jane (1948), Ike and Marge moved into their new house in 1952. One of Ike’s passions was flying. He earned his pilot’s license in 1958, logging hundreds of business travel hours in the Hinson Company planes. He flew well into his eighties, a member of UFO – United Flying Octogenarians. Marge died December 1, 1970. In a downsizing in 1973, Ike lost his job. He was 58. This freed his entrepreneurial spirit to “capitalize on a negative”, to begin a new career as a solo sales and marketing consultant. Ike met Joe Nelson who had invented the Filter Minder gauge for preventing over-servicing air cleaner elements. Ike and Joe, with Joe’s wife Fran, founded Engineered Products Company (EPC) in Waterloo in 1977, and began assembling the gauges on the ping pong table in the Nelson basement. As Ike would tell it, they had a negative net worth of \$64 the first year, and they made money every year after that. Ike’s decades of sales experience won orders for Filter Minders from the major truck, agriculture, and construction fleet operators, and manufacturers. Joe led new product design until he died in 1984. Ike bought Fran’s share of the company. The EPC team had become part of Ike’s “family”. Ike sold EPC to the employees in 1989.

Stewardship was one of Ike’s highest values. He held a strong commitment to sharing God’s great bounty entrusted to him by passing on the love and generosity he had experienced. In 1985, Ike established The Leighty Foundation. Progressively, he invited Bill, Jane, their spouses, and his grandchildren to join him on the board. The Leighty Foundation became a way for family to join with Ike in sharing their time and talent, as well as the financial resources of the Foundation. In 2004, Ike and Emile Leighty were married. Emile is a family friend.

Ike’s final public appearance was July 21, 2015 at a Cedar Valley Chamber Alliance lunch, followed by an interview conversation with friend and retired Waterloo banker Joe Vich, on the subject of “leaving a legacy”. His closing challenge to the attendees was, “May you each find sufficient purpose for the priceless gift of life



OUR MISSION and GUIDELINES

To carry on the Leighty Family legacy of service and stewardship by leveraging our time and talents, as well as our financial resources, primarily in the areas of Earth Protection, Education, Philanthropy, and Strategic Volunteer Engagement.

The Leighty Foundation (TLF) is a small family foundation incorporated under Iowa law. Directors and advisors live in Colorado, Alaska, and California.

We award funds to tax-exempt charitable organizations. Many of our funding decisions are made during our summer board meeting. However, proposals may be considered at any time during the year. We support direct charitable activities in our Strategic Volunteer Engagement and Earth Protection Programs.

We consider funding proposals that we have invited. We do not review or respond to unsolicited applications for funding. TLF has no paid management staff. We haven't the capacity to respectfully and adequately evaluate, acknowledge, and encourage or decline the many unsolicited requests for funding we receive. We appreciate and honor the innovation of so many persons and organizations in the nonprofit world. We thank you for your understanding and for your continued inspired and meaningful work.

We generally do not consider funding for capital projects. However, when we do, we are particularly interested in building design and energy efficiency, land use, and community planning – consistent with our dedication to sustainability and to sprawl prevention. If you are planning a capital project, please review our [“Investing in Capital Projects”](#) paper.

Please review our program work and the funding we have done. We hope our efforts inform, encourage, and contribute to your success. We are committed to the wise allocation of human, financial, and natural resources. We increase the impact of our grants and contributions by investing in organizations that strategically engage volunteers to accomplish their mission. We encourage office operation and personal choices that reduce environmental impacts.

2021-2022 DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

EARTH PROTECTION Bill Leighty, Program Director

The Leighty Foundation is working to accelerate humanity's transition to a sustainable, equitable, benign, affordable global energy system based entirely upon renewable energy sources. An urgent Grand Challenge is transforming the world's largest industry from about 80% fossil to nearly 100% renewable, CO₂-emission-free energy sources, as quickly as we prudently and profitably can. Prudently: with acceptable social and economic disruption. Profitably: the huge amount of capital needed will flow only to attractive opportunities for returns. Electricity systems may be inadequate or technically and economically suboptimal for this transformation. We need to think beyond electricity, to comprehensively consider alternatives. Hydrogen (H₂) and Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) are attractive energy carriers, storage media, and fuels – as complete renewable energy systems. The Leighty Foundation, Earth Protection program focuses on the Big Three challenges of time-variable renewable generation: gathering and transmission; low-cost, annual-scale, firming storage; distribution, integration, and end-use of energy services.

STRATEGIC VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT Jane L. Justis, Program Manager

We believe that strategically deployed volunteer energy increases the return on the majority of our community investments.

For thirty years the Foundation has invested in strengthening the sustainability and resilience of the social sector. We work with funders and nonprofits alike to influence philanthropic capacity building support and nonprofit leadership so that Strategic Volunteer Engagement becomes a standard best practice to maximize impact and mission fulfillment.

2021-2022 GRANTS

COMMUNITY & HEALTH

Asante Africa Foundation
 Community Foundation Boulder County, Boulder County Wildfire Fund
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Rocky Mountain Chapter
 Doctors Without Borders USA, Emergency Relief
 EngenderHealth, Family Planning Programs
 Fostering Hope Foundation
 Gazette Charities, Empty Stocking Fund
 Hope & Home
 Interfaith Hospitality Network of CO Springs dba Family Promise of CO Springs, IHN Shelter Program
 International Rescue Committee, Emergency Relief for Families
 Kids on Bikes, Pedal Station Volunteer Appreciation
 Lutheran Family Services, Rocky Mountains
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America
 Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands, AK Health Centers
 Talita Cumi
 UNICEF USA, Humanitarian Action for Children
 Wild Blue Cats
 William J. Brennan Center for Justice, Voting Rights
 World Vision, Ukraine Emergency Response
 Young Life College, Colorado Springs (CO 217)

EARTH PROTECTION

Alaska Conservation Foundation, Mine Gathering & Fund
 American Rivers
 Earthworks
 Environmental Law and Policy Center, Iowa Office
 Iowa Environmental Council, Energy Program
 Natural Resources Defense Council, Clean Energy Program
 New Venture Fund, SalmonState
 Renewable Hydrogen Alliance, Portland Clean Energy Fund Intern
 Rocky Mountain Institute, Energy Program
 Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Invasive Plant Management
 The Land Institute
 Tidelines Institute, Boat Electrification Project
 Tides Center, Rivers Without Borders, Transboundary Watershed Campaign
 Trustees for Alaska
 Union of Concerned Scientists, Climate & Energy

EDUCATION

Catamount Institute
 Project on Government Oversight
 Rocky Mountain Women's Film, Youth Documentary Academy

PHILANTHROPY

National Center for Family Philanthropy, Strategic Plan

STRATEGIC VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Community Foundation of NE Iowa, Initiative for Strategic Volunteer Engagement Advised Fund

Pikes Peak Community Foundation, Catchafire

Springs Recovery Center, Volunteer Training



The Board of Directors of The Leighty Foundation

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Financial Summary Fiscal Year End 2021-2022

Market value on August 31, 2022: \$6,193,607.

Funds distributed for Grants: \$275,500. Direct Charitable Activity expense: \$167,931.