

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 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.

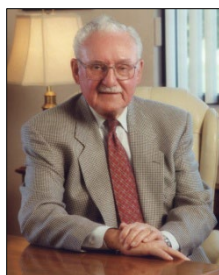
Ike attended Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC, now University of Northern Iowa) for the school year 1934-35, where he met Marjorie Jane Gibson (Marge). In 1938 and with Marge’s encouragement, Ike resumed his education at the University of Iowa, graduating in Business, Class of 1941. Ike and Marge were 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 Ike as a third brother.

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 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 equipment manufacturers and fleets. 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 became 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”.

The Leighty Foundation Annual Report September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025
2024-2025 GRANTS

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COMMUNITY & HEALTH	FOR
Advocates for Children CASA	General Support
American University of Rome	Academic Field Trip Scholarships
Asante Africa Foundation	Leadership Transition
Asian Children's Mission	Capital Project
Average Everyday Miracles	General Support
Braver Angels	National level support
Christian Home for Children, Inc DBA Family Life Services	General Operations (unrestricted)
Crossfire Ministries	Guest Services, Food Security
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Rocky Mountain	Denver CF Climb
EngenderHealth	Family Planning Programs
Fostering Hope Foundation	Volunteer Support
Gazette Charities Foundation	Empty Stocking Fund
Hope & Home	Extended Family Fund
Interfaith Hospitality Network of CO Spgs DBA Family Promise	IHN Family Shelter & Day Center
KTOO Public Media	General Support, News
Marin Humane	General Support
National Public Radio	General Support
Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation	Inpatient Care Center
Planned Parenthood Great Northwest, HI, AK, IN, KY	Alaska Health Centers
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation	General Support
Rocky Mountain Women's Film	Festival Live Music Or General Support
Step Denver	General Support
The Marine Mammal Center	General Support
Tucson Wildlife Center	General Support
Trail Mix	General Support
Ukraine Power	Assist with a Family Orphanage; education needs
Urban Community School (Cleveland)	K-8 scholarships
We Fortify	Working Fusion, Elevate Villages
William J. Brennan Jr. Center for Justice Inc.	Democracy
Young Life	Young Life College, CO217
EARTH PROTECTION	FOR
Environmental Law and Policy Center	Des Moines, IA Office
Great Plains Institute	Renewable Energy
Iowa Environmental Council	Energy and Climate Program
New Venture Fund	SAWS, SalmonState
RMI	Climate-aligned industry: Hydrogen
Stop MPRP, Inc.	501C(4) Media and Public Education; Legal
EDUCATION	FOR
Asla Foundation Inc	General Support
National Public Radio	General Operations (unrestricted)
PBS Foundation	Journalism (America@250)
San Anselmo Cooperative Nursery School	Backyard Water
The Yes Foundation	General Support
PHILANTHROPY	FOR
National Center for Family Philanthropy	Strategic Refresh
STRATEGIC VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT	FOR
Independent Sector	Year 1: Strategic Vol. Engage.: From Research to Tools

2024-2025 DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

EARTH PROTECTION Bill Leighty, Program Director

The Leighty Foundation helps accelerate a global transition to a sustainable, equitable, benign, affordable global energy system based entirely upon benign renewable energy sources. Humanity must transform the world's largest industry from about 80% fossil to nearly 100% renewable, greenhouse-gas-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 reward-to-risk 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. Nascent, ubiquitous deep hot dry rock geothermal (DHDRG) energy systems may obviate need for any kind of new transmission and energy storage infrastructure. The Leighty Foundation, Earth Protection program focuses on the several salient challenges of time-variable renewable generation: gathering and transmission; low-cost, annual-scale, firming storage; distribution, integration, and end-use of energy services.

OUR MISSION and GUIDELINES

The Leighty Foundation Mission Statement:

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 Community & Health, Earth Protection, Education, Philanthropy, and Strategic Volunteer Engagement.

The Leighty Foundation Guidelines:

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

We consider funding proposals that we have invited. TLF has no paid management staff. We do not review or respond to unsolicited letters of interest or applications for funding. 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 people and organizations in the nonprofit world. We thank you for your understanding and for your continued inspired and meaningful work.

We award funds to tax-exempt charitable organizations. Generally, our funding decisions are made at the January and June meetings of the Board. We support direct charitable activities in the Earth Protection Program.

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.

Financial Summary Fiscal Year End 2024-2025

Market value on August 31, 2025:	\$6,807,233.
Funds distributed for Grants:	\$159,250.
Direct Charitable Activity Expense: Earth Protection Program	\$ 5,920.

The Leighty Foundation Board of Directors, Officers, and Advisors for FYE2025

Directors and Officers: Jane Leighty Justis, President Emerita Wayne W. Leighty, President
Nancy J. Waterman, Treasurer Lisa M. Justis, Secretary

Directors: Robert F. Justis, Heidi E. Reifenstein, William C. Leighty

Advisors: Hillary D. Lipton, Jalynn Johnstone

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Hannah Haines Photo, July 28, 2023

Leighty Family, Colorado Springs, CO