



William T. “Bill” Payne

William T. “Bill” Payne, the founder of Big Chief Drilling, was a man who had earned his way through college selling pots and pans. As a businessman and a philanthropist, Mr. Payne understood the importance of helping your community. A bequest from his will in 1981 established the William T. Payne Fund and more than doubled the Oklahoma City Community Foundation’s assets at that time. As the fund’s advisor, Nancy Payne Ellis is committed to continuing the legacy her father-in-law started. Mrs. Ellis recommends distributions from the fund based upon Mr. Payne’s original charitable interests. “I knew the things that were in his heart,” she explains. “I choose projects that I believe would be pleasing to him and that hold the integrity he would appreciate and recognize.” And through the commitment of his grandchildren and their children to continue his charitable wishes into the future, Mr. Payne’s philanthropic legacy will live on for generations to come.

DONOR STORY



*William T. “Bill” Payne lived by the adage
“the price we pay for living on earth
is what we do for others.”*