

# Richard and Gayle Parry

## *Helping Shape Young Leaders*

As an investment professional, it comes as no surprise that Richard Parry along with his wife Gayle like the idea of giving to charitable organization endowments at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

“We like the idea of making gifts that have the ‘perpetuity/compound growth’ investment affect,” explains Richard, who is the president and chief investment officer of Tom Johnson Investment Management LLC. Gayle, who is self employed, worked at Local Federal Bank for more than 20 years. The couple has two children, Kristi and Michael.

Richard and Gayle made their first gift in 1999 to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to benefit the Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park endowment fund. Since that time, they have been continual donors to a variety of charitable organization endowments such as the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Positive Tomorrows and the Jesus House to name a few.

“The number of nonprofits with endowments at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation allows us to address a number of interests with one check,” says Gayle. “This is really useful for budget and time considerations.”

Foremost among the Parrys’ charitable giving is supporting organizations that they believe are important investments for the community’s future and that have made or are making a difference for both their family and others. One of these nonprofit groups that fits the Parrys’ criteria is Leadership Oklahoma City and its LOYAL Program, a community service program for young adults.

Beth Shortt, executive director of Leadership Oklahoma City, says the Parrys’ support of the LOYAL Program has a real impact on the community.

“Like the proverbial pebble in the pond, Richard’s involvement in LOYAL has created positive change far beyond its direct impact,” she adds. “The young adults who complete LOYAL emerge as committed, motivated community volunteers and central Oklahoma benefits from their engagement in the community in ways we cannot begin to count.”

Richard and Gayle Parry enjoy supporting the activities of Leadership Oklahoma City including LOYAL, a community service program for young adults, through gifts to the organization’s endowment fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In the photo with the Parrys are recent LOYAL graduates Amy Mitchell (seated), Ike Akinwande (kneeling) and Kelsey Karper. *Photograph by Brandon Snider Photography*

