Dorrance H. "Dodo" Hamilton Has Shown Exceptional Philanthropic Leadership and Service to Jefferson

Philanthropist Dorrance H. "Dodo" Hamilton has been a member of Thomas Jefferson University's Board of Trustees since 1972 and a member of the Women's Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital since 1957.

Mrs. Hamilton has generously contributed at least $50 million to Jefferson and other institutions.

“Dodo Hamilton has shown exceptional philanthropic leadership and service to Jefferson,” noted Thomas Jefferson University President Robert L. Barchi, M.D., Ph.D.

Among her many achievements, Mrs. Hamilton served as chair of Jefferson's capital campaign, the Jefferson 2000 Fund. To aid the campaign, Mrs. Hamilton presented Jefferson with a $5 million gift to the Department of Medicine to support laboratory renovations and two professorships.

In 1998, a charitable income trust established by Mrs. Hamilton provided $2.2 million to expand key medical oncology and surgical programs at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This generosity enhanced Jefferson's efforts to recruit leading oncologists who specialize in such major areas of cancer treatment as lung, breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary oncology, hematological malignancies, and head and neck cancer. The gift also supported physicians' use of new methods and techniques for patient care developed at Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center.

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In December of 1997, Mrs. Hamilton contributed $3 million to Thomas Jefferson University in honor of three Jefferson physicians who cared for her late husband. That gift established the Robert L. Capizzi Professorship in Medicine at Jefferson Medical College and supported medical research in cancer, pulmonary medicine and digestive diseases, as well as education initiatives in Jefferson’s Department of Medicine.

Mrs. Hamilton has received many regional honors including a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania Award from the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Distinguished Achievement Medal, and was named an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts.

Mrs. Hamilton, who resides in Florida and Wayne, Pa., is director of 218 Enterprises in Wayne and operates the Little House Shop and Valley Forge Flowers. She is also responsible for the establishment of the Spread Eagle Village shopping center in Strafford.

During the 1980s, Mrs. Hamilton served on the board of the Campbell Soup Company, which was founded by her grandfather, John T. Dorrance.

She also serves on the board of the University of the Arts, the Winterthur Museum's Board of Trustees in Wilmington, Del., and the New Jersey State Aquarium.

An enthusiastic gardener, Mrs. Hamilton is a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and has won the Mrs. Lammot duPont Copeland Horticultural Sweepstakes Trophy ten years in a row. She is also a three-time winner of the Philadelphia Flower Show's top trophy and was a co-founder of the Newport Flower Show. At the Morris Arboretum, Mrs. Hamilton serves as a member of the advisory board.

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