In our own lives, here in the world, we all have an opportunity to do ‘good things’ on a daily basis for others and to do them in an unselfish manner... For me, managing the stewardship of charitable giving is a moment-to-moment dignified responsibility of a truly high calling in human affairs and human relations.

VIRGINIA G. PIPER

May 20, 2019

“A moment-to-moment dignified responsibility.”

That’s how Virginia Galvin Piper characterized her work in philanthropy. Today, as I help carry on her legacy through the Trust that bears her name, I am honored to serve our community.

As Piper Trust kicks off its yearlong 20th anniversary commemoration, we are pleased to send you the first in our #PiperTrustMoments series. These monthly notes will highlight community partnerships, celebrate important work underway by our grantees, and share insights and life moments about Virginia Piper, who inspires us every day.

And, as we celebrate Virginia’s legacy and the past 20 years, we invite everyone to share their own unique “moments”—meaningful acts of giving or receiving.

As a unit of time, a moment equates to about 90 seconds … and yet, so much can happen in a moment. While it may take time to reach a discovery, identify a solution, give or receive an act of kindness—it can all come together in a transformational moment of good that can profoundly impact others.

Just last week we experienced a transformational moment. Piper Trust awarded a $10 million grant to Creighton University to support the construction of its health sciences campus in Phoenix. This new campus will serve nearly 900 students seeking medical degrees, and help fight the dire healthcare provider shortage in Arizona.

As we reflect on the Trust’s work over the past two decades, we are excited to share impactful moments that build on Virginia’s legacy. We hope you’ll look forward to receiving #PiperTrustMoments; watch for it to arrive in your inbox monthly on the 20th. And importantly, please join us in celebrating a remarkable woman, our extraordinary grantees, and the many moments we each have to “do good.”

Warmly,

Mary Jane Rynd
President and CEO
WHO WAS VIRGINIA PIPER?

Born in 1911, Virginia Critchfield came into the world with a special grace. Notes in her baby book, lovingly recorded by her mother, bring to light a depth in her character at a very young age. She went on to marry Motorola founder Paul V. Galvin and some years after his passing, wed Motorola vice president Kenneth Piper, but that’s not where her biography ends.

Virginia Galvin Piper actively, and independently, rose to the responsibilities of stewardship. In fact, she committed herself to the deep understanding of charitable giving and, at the age of 48, began a career dedicated to philanthropy.

She was a natural. Virginia would actively visit organizations, meet with board members, ask tough questions, and make informed decisions on her own, with humility. With her signature mix of grace and intelligence, she learned everything she could about finance, investments, tax laws, and trust and estate accounts. Affectionately known as the “living room philanthropist,” she welcomed nonprofit leaders into her home to learn about their organizations, and talk about pressing community issues, often over a beautiful plate of chocolate chip cookies.

Virginia’s hospitality was legendary; she was gracious to people from all walks of life. She never sought the limelight, but instead worked with matchless dedication and unpretentious service to change lives and help others.

As Piper Trust begins to mark its 20th year, reflections and celebrations are grounded in Virginia’s exceptional influence. We continue to learn from her life’s work today. This extraordinary woman, who lived and led through revolutionary times, is more relevant than ever. Virginia Galvin Piper—visionary, generous, and dedicated—a woman who transformed the gift of a single life into an enduring philanthropic legacy.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF MOMENTS IN GIVING

Virginia Piper inspires us to do good things daily. As we celebrate Virginia’s legacy and the past 20 years, we invite everyone to share their “moments”—meaningful acts of giving or receiving.

SHARE YOURS

#PiperTrustMoments

ABOUT

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust supports organizations that enrich health, well-being, and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County, Arizona and religious organizations.

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