

The Road to Happiness is Paved With Gold



By Dick and Nancy Wilson

“Overwhelmed” would be a mild summation of how we felt when friends and business colleagues asked our permission to establish a donor-advised, 10-year Endowment Fund at **The Calgary Foundation (TCF)** to support programs related to our long term interests in Education and Youth at Risk.

The concept of what has become the **Dick and Nancy Wilson Fund** started months before my February 28th, 2006 working departure from EnCana Corporation, when associates from a number of charitable organizations thought they should formally welcome Nancy and I into their world on a fulltime basis, since volunteerism is going to be a mainstay of our non-working life. Championed by David Mitchell, Jim Gray and Dr. Colleen Klein — three people whom I admire for their personal values and support of community — I learned that a committee had been struck to inaugurate, communicate and promote not only the Fund, but also a ‘coming out’ party after my last day at work!

Florence Murphy, EnCana’s Vice-President Public & Community Relations, urged Nancy and I to consider the Fund as a way for friends to acknowledge ‘career time on the front lines’ and to provide us with the ability to continue supporting causes with something beyond personal time. We were equally humbled and overwhelmed to think that people wanted to do this on our behalf.

Prior to retirement, Nancy and I participated in the Matching Gift program through the EnCana Cares Foundation. Essentially, every dollar donated annually to a registered charity was doubled. That allowed us to support youth-at-risk organizations like StreetTeams/ SafeHouse Society (recently integrated with Boy’s & Girl’s Clubs of Calgary) and the Legacy Fund for Youth From Care at TCF which provides educational bursaries for system-raised youth who demonstrate potential. We have also supported Youth Science Fairs and the Manning Young Innovator Awards.

We wish to thank all of our friends, business colleagues, family and acquaintances who have generously supported the Dick and Nancy Wilson Fund. With The Calgary Foundation as our Partner, the Fund, which has grown to almost \$140,000, will be carefully administered, allowing us to continue in our commitment and passion to help young people bring their gifts to the world.