



## Thoughts on Charitable Giving By David Isenberg

How did this journey begin? If “everything I know, I learned from my father” then everything charitable and giving, I learned from my mother. Dorothy Isenberg was a most special and unique person. In addition to being a loving Mother and the co-founder of Chex Finer Foods, she spent her endless energies and thoughts about how to give back and support a multitude of communal causes. She was truly a visionary and never stopped reaching out. Her range was diverse – from bringing the Israel Philharmonic to Rhode Island in 1954 – to establishing a Grandparents Guild for the Children’s Museum - to the Rhode Island Philharmonic – to the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra - to mentoring and caring for young underprivileged children, just to name a few. She worked tirelessly and never took no for an answer. “You can never say no to Dorothy!” She solicited for Chex when we started up, she never knew pricing – she sold packages of integrity. And succeeded!

Personally, I always had the thoughts of giving monies to charitable causes upon my demise, yet I wanted to accomplish and enjoy this process while I was alive and to lead by example for my children. We established the David C. Isenberg Family Foundation focusing on children, education, the arts and Jewish causes which was funded in great part from Chex’s year end planning. We wanted to touch people’s lives. Some of our heart-warming efforts include funding a program that brings joy and happiness to sick children at the Hasbro Children’s Hospital in Providence as well as the Children’s Hospital in Boston; sending a child to asthma camp, funding seed money to have a book written about children from the Holocaust; giving money anonymously to various causes such as paying for a family’s heating bill before it was going to be turned off during the bitter cold winter; providing food gift certificates for Thanksgiving for families in need; sending a young child in need to a Jewish Camp for the summer; and sending money to a Temple in New Orleans that was devastated during hurricane Katrina. Some of our larger efforts include leadership gifts to the Providence Children Museum; the Library; our Temple and lately establishing an endowment to provide kosher meals for the elderly and shut-ins.

It is most rewarding to see all my children carry on the family tradition by becoming involved with causes close to their hearts and continue this legacy of giving. At Chex, we initiated a program of “giving back” wherein our employees can make their own decisions of where charitable company funds can be directed.

I feel that it is a truly a privilege to be able to tread this path, reach out to those less fortunate and take the responsibility of giving to others. We must leave our footprints in the sand. May this tradition continue for generations to come!