



PHILANTHROPIST—BANKER—COMMUNITY LEADER

MEET **RICHARD J. CARLANDER**, CLASS OF 1955, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE BANK OF FARIBAULT AND PRESIDENT OF FARIBAULT BANCSHARES, INC.

Richard Carlander (1937-2021)

Many people have tried, but few have succeeded in describing the full extent of Richard J. Carlander's influence on the Faribault community. Perhaps his unassuming manner and humble demeanor obviate attempts to explain the generosity of the man. Nevertheless, his leadership and financial support are profoundly felt throughout a variety of community organizations and institutions.

Richard learned the value of hard work and integrity under the tutelage of his father, John Carlander, who was elected President and Director of the State Bank of Faribault in 1938. His father taught him several operating principles, which continue to guide his life.

First, he learned that "there is no substitute for experience." Richard began at the bottom rung of the banking business as a teenager, running errands. While he had a good relationship with his father—he is an only child—he knew who was boss. He had to toe the line. He obtained additional experience as a caddy at the Faribault Country Club and as a bookkeeper while attending college.

In addition to his father, Richard also learned his work ethic from his high school golf coach, Raymond Budenske, under whose leadership Richard earned six golf letters, a feat of which he is justly proud.

After college, Richard worked his way up to assistant cashier in the installment loan department, where he learned another principle: "the bank sells service." Prompt attention to customer needs, conservative decision-making, and a reputation for integrity contribute to the nearly eight decades of successful operation in Faribault. Richard is proud of the "Legacy of Community Banking Award" he received in 2009 for fifty years of banking service.

Finally, Richard's father taught him to "treat people the way I would want to be treated." He proudly notes that many of his employees have remained with his bank for decades. Under his leadership, the bank's staff practices the combined principles of service and respectful treatment of customers and colleagues.

Richard enjoys an indisputable reputation for generosity stemming from his discovery that upon his death, his father had done little estate planning. Richard told his wife, Lorraine, they needed to do things differently; they planned accordingly, so their estate would be sure to support the causes they valued.

Over many decades, the Carlander family has supported more than ninety-five organizations or projects. Among the educational organizations benefitting are the Faribault Area Public School Education Trust Association, South Central College Faribault Campus Foundation, Faribault Booster Club, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Olaf College, and Concordia University.

Community organizations enjoying Carlander's philanthropy are the Paradise Center for the Arts, Rice County Historical Society, River Bend Nature Center, Faribault Foundation, and more recently, Ruth's House and the Faribault Area Senior Citizen Center.

Because his humility belies his generosity, the extent of his philanthropy may never be fully known. Nevertheless, it is evident that Richard J. Carlander deserves the sobriquet, "Godfather of Charitable Giving."