



Mary Ann Hess – *Philanthropy*

Mary Ann Hess, the daughter of Andrew Christian Hess and Margaret Blackford Hess, was born in Wheeling on May 24, 1930. Mary Ann's family lived on Lenox Avenue and later at the Table Rock Farm on Table Rock Lane.

She was a graduate of the Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling and following graduation attended the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, OH.

Raising her family of six children kept Mary Ann quite busy, but she still found time to be an active volunteer at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Center Wheeling and be part of an active circle of tennis friends who played at Oglebay Park tennis courts.

Mary Ann's children are daughters Margaret Hogan, Christina Hess, Elizabeth Hess, and Brady Hogan and sons William Neil Hogan and Andrew P. Hogan. She also had a brother, Andrew Christian Hess.

Within the Wheeling community Mary Ann was an active member of the Junior League of Wheeling, League of Women Voters, Friends of Wheeling, the Herb Society of Wheeling, and the Meals on Wheels program.

Following her passing on August 5, 2002, as a tribute to her love for Wheeling and the people of the Ohio Valley, her children created the Hess Family Foundation with special emphasis on philanthropy, charity, and voluntarism.

In the years of philanthropic giving the number of organizations and individuals benefiting from the

Hess Family Foundation are almost too numerous to mention; however, Oglebay Park has been a special beneficiary. This reflects Mary Ann's love for the park and how Oglebay benefits all Wheeling's residents as well as the park's many visitors. The Mary Ann Hess cottage, improvements to the Oglebay stables, hiking trail improvements, aerial challenger course, Camp Russel renovations, and improvements and expansion of racquet sports facilities are just a few of the improvements made possible at Oglebay Park through the Hess Family Foundation.

One of the most significant grants in health care is Liza's Place at Valley Hospice, which is named for Mary Ann's daughter, Elizabeth "Liza" Hess-Gebhard, and Project HOPE of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department which ensures access to medical care for unsheltered men, women, and children through direct street outreach.

In the area of education are grants to Hess Mentoring Program at Wheeling University, West Virginia Independent Colleges & Universities Circle of Vision, West Virginia Northern Community College for trade program development, tuition assistance at West Liberty University, and support for Wheeling Country Day School.

Concerning social services are grants to Youth Services Systems in support of the Wheeling Sleepout program to promote awareness of the homeless, the Lazarus House for addiction recovery and transition to recovery, House of Hagar offering hospitality and a temporary home for people living on society's fringes, and NAMI of Greater Wheeling Drop-In Center for people and families dealing with mental health conditions.

In support of quality of life are grants to Catholic Charities to promote their urban gardens program through Grow Ohio Valley and the East Wheeling Neighborhood Center, Friends of Wheeling Preservation Loan Guarantee Program for renovation and restoration of historically significant properties, the Oglebay Foundation, Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, Oglebay Institute Friends of the Towngate Theatre, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and the Children's Museum of the Upper Ohio Valley.

A reoccurring theme of the philanthropic spirit of the Hess Family Foundation has been providing people with opportunities to help themselves to improve their quality of life within the community of the Upper Ohio Valley.