

Couple Creates Dual Legacies With Gift



Steve and Shirley Imbeau arrived in Florence in 1980. Steve became the first Board-Certified Allergist in the Pee Dee Region, but also wore other hats early on, serving as the McLeod EMS and Emergency Department Director in the mid-'80s.

“We love the community,” Steve said. “We love living in a small town. And, all three of our children were born at McLeod.”

A Storied History

Over their nearly four decades in Florence, the Imbeaus have grown to admire the storied history of McLeod Regional Medical Center. Steve has spent a great deal of time researching and learning about the life of Dr. F. H. McLeod, who founded the hospital in 1906.

“He really believed he could have saved that boy if there had been a hospital here,” Steve said, recounting the tragic story of Rufus Barringer, whose death after falling from a window in downtown Florence motivated Dr. McLeod to open the region’s first infirmary. “His surgical skill was legendary, and he ran every aspect of the hospital. He only slept two to four hours a night.”

The Imbeaus not only relish McLeod’s past, they also contribute to its present and future. Steve practices at the Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Center, P.C. in the McLeod Medical Plaza building, and he and his wife, Shirley, are longtime contributors to the McLeod Foundation.

“I have always thought McLeod played an important role in our community with its signature commitment to the underserved,” explained Steve. “And, it is impressive what they’ve done -- expanding in this region all the way to the coast.”

Shirley’s passion for supporting McLeod stems from her personal experience with the hospital. In addition to giving birth to three children and seeing her father undergo a successful heart procedure at McLeod, Shirley also received successful breast cancer treatment here in 2008.

“Every member of the staff took such great care of me, from the maintenance staff on up, Shirley reflected.

Leaving a Legacy

The Imbeaus were also two of the earliest members of the Dr. F. H. McLeod Legacy Society. After conversations with McLeod Foundation Board Chair Beverly Hazelwood and their attorney -- Foundation Board Member Mike Roberts -- Steve and Shirley decided to make a legacy commitment.

“Once we learned who was part of the Legacy Society, we wanted to be part of that group too,” Steve said.

Making a legacy gift was a very simple process, according to the Imbeaus, who simply added a codicil to their already executed will. “It was very easy and painless,” Steve said.

The Imbeaus believe that their legacy gift will help McLeod continue to grow into the future, benefiting the lives of patients long after they are gone.

“We just wanted to do our part to support the mission of McLeod, to give back,” explained Shirley. Steve also likes the idea that he is following in the footsteps of a great man for whom he holds deep admiration. “You know F. H. McLeod did this too,” Steve said with a smile. “He used his estate to fund the growth of McLeod.”