

The Tamkin Family Foundation—a legacy of giving

For Dr. S. Jerome Tamkin and Judith Tamkin, philanthropy is a family philosophy. The Tamkin Family Foundation is based on the tradition of giving that began with Dr. Tamkin's father and continues with their four grown children and seven grandchildren.

The Tamkins have been supporters of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles for more than a decade, but they recently increased their contribution following their nine-year-old grandson William's treatment at the medical facility a year ago for injuries sustained from a hit-and-run accident.

"William and my wife, Brenda, were visiting friends and they were outside looking at some Christmas lights, when a speeding SUV hit my son," recalls Dr. and Mrs. Tamkin's son, Steve Tamkin, who is the executive vice president of his family's foundation. "He was airlifted to Childrens Hospital

Los Angeles and we were so impressed with the level of care we received."

"I was home working that night when I got the phone call that no parent ever wants to get," Mr. Tamkin continues. "As soon as I arrived at the hospital, everyone was so compassionate and knowledgeable. We knew our son was receiving the best care possible."

Fortunately, William sustained no permanent injuries from the accident, and the Tamkin family remains grateful for the physicians and nurses in the hospital's Emergency Department. "Our grandson received such wonderful treatment at Childrens Hospital and we feel very fortunate to have received that level of care," says Dr. Tamkin, who is a founding director and former executive vice president of American Medical International, one of the world's first and largest hospital and health-care providers.

The Tamkins recently became members of Childrens Hospital's First Families Legacy Program with their \$100,000 contribution. The family's dedication to helping children extends back to Dr. Tamkin's father, who was a founder of the Sun Air Home for Asthmatic Children. Mrs. Tamkin, a licensed clinical hypnotherapist who has worked extensively with cancer patients, is one of the founders of the Handicapped Program, which helps disabled youngsters take part in the Boy Scouts.

The Tamkins' varied philanthropic contributions have established scholarships for gifted students, grants for medical research and a permanent exhibit of the "Tamkin Dueling Dinosaurs" in the main foyer of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. They have been major funders of Cedars Sinai Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center and the



Steve Tamkin (left), Dr. S. Jerome Tamkin, William, Judith and Brenda Tamkin

Tamkin Computer Network at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, which tracks all known asteroids and comets.

The Foundation supports 32 major projects, benefiting a wide range of organizations such as the Skirball Cultural Center, Boy Scouts of America, the Music Center, Jewish Home for the Aging, the California Science Center and several academic institutions in both the

United States and Israel. Dr. Tamkin was one of the initial founders of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program established in 1983.

"When I was growing up, we were not wealthy, but my father always set aside money for charity," says Dr. Tamkin. "He taught us that you have to take care of others who are less fortunate. Our hope is that our grandchildren will keep this tradition going." ●