



Generous Bequest Funds Cardiovascular Research

“Mom and Ed were a wonderful couple,” says Sharon Seekins, the daughter of Virginia Madden. “They met through their church in Sierra Vista. We were thrilled when they married,” she explains. Virginia and Edward “Ed” Madden had both lost two previous spouses to cancer and heart disease, so finding love a third time was something a bit unexpected.

Ed, a retired postal worker, had saved throughout his life, though he was always a generous man when it came to causes he believed in, including the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center. Heart disease played a role in the deaths of his first and second wives. These losses led him to make a generous provision through his estate for the UA Sarver Heart Center.

Growing up in New York, Ed never drove and always used some form of public transportation. This didn’t change when he moved to Sierra Vista in 1980. In fact, it was because he didn’t drive that he met Virginia. “Mom was a volunteer driver for their church and Ed was one of her passengers.” From their friendship grew romance and eventually marriage. “Much like Ed, Mom had been widowed twice before, so for them to find each other was wonderful,” says Sharon.

Before Ed passed away in 2007, Virginia and he would travel and spend time with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Just after Ed’s

passing, Virginia wrote to the UA Sarver Heart Center to say simply that she and her children had discussed it and although Ed had changed his will to provide for her, she would be honoring Ed’s wishes by ensuring that his estate passed on to the Center, just as he had intended.

“This story behind this gift is wonderful,” says Dr. Gordon A. Ewy. “Mr. and Mrs. Madden’s hope to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from cardiovascular disease will be realized through critical research funded by the *Edward and Virginia Madden Investigator Award*. We also are grateful to Mrs. Madden’s daughter, Sharon, for helping us to get to know the Maddens and why this gift meant so much to them.”

The research award recipient for 2011-2012 is **Maria I. Altbach, PhD**, who is working with **Aiden Abidov, MD, PhD**, to study a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technique that may be a non-invasive way for doctors to diagnose whether a patient with chest pains is at risk of developing a heart attack. If successful, this project could alter the management of patients suspected of acute coronary syndrome as a result of atherosclerotic disease.

If you would like to make a provision in your estate to benefit the Sarver Heart Center, please call the Office of Development at 520-626-4146. ♥