



Founder, Dr. E. Kenneth Hatton

HATTON FOUNDATION

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Nine months ago, Walt Lunsford had a heart attack; yet apparently his work on earth was not finished. His responsibilities to the Hatton Foundation, his business clients as Senior Vice President-Investments at Raymond James and Associates, and as husband and father to two sons, one an 8-year old who is developmentally disabled, collectively sparked his fighting spirit. He drove himself to a hospital, where sheer willpower combined with a fierce sense of duty for the Foundation, love for his family, and incredible medical technology put him on the road to recovery.

Lunsford has a renewed outlook on life in general, and as executive director of the Hatton Foundation, formed by the last will and testament of a humble family physician in Bond Hill, Dr. E. Kenneth Hatton.

Many foundations are started by people with a passion for accomplishing lofty humanitarian goals. Not Dr. Hatton, who for years was on the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital and for whom the groundbreaking Hatton Research Institute at Good Sam was named. Hatton hated paying taxes. Lunsford became Hatton's investment manager; a close friend and the one in charge of his now \$27 million Foundation. Dr. Hatton died in 1997 of Parkinson's disease, but made a profound statement through the Foundation.

As the person chosen to continue this legacy, Lunsford shares his reasons for his devotion to the Foundation. "Empathy for

others and life experiences as a father of a special needs child drive me."

A few years ago, Lunsford and his wife Margaret were watching their son, Grayson, ride a horse at Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding Center, a Hatton grantee. "I was overwhelmed and exhausted; caring for my son, running a business," says Lunsford. "I looked around and realized all the parents of special needs kids had smiles on their faces and blank stares in their eyes. I knew Margaret and I looked the same. It scared me and I became determined to make life better for families like mine."

Lunsford calls it the underground – distraught, sometimes heartbroken, exhausted families with kids who may or may not be able to live on their own. "Grayson is an incredible kid with a charismatic personality," he explains. However, like most parents of special needs children, Walt and Margaret are astonished by some of the challenges. Life takes many unpredictable twists and turns. "Having a special needs child is like planning a vacation to Hawaii, and landing in Pennsylvania. The journey is great; it's just different than what you planned," Lunsford says.

Giving away \$1 million each year from the Hatton Foundation is incredibly rewarding when you know your work may profoundly change the life of another. The Hatton Research Institute at Good Samaritan Hospital is one of the Foundation's most satisfying grants. Lunsford and the Foundation's Board of



Walt Lunsford, Executive Director of the Hatton Foundation

Directors are proud of their Cincinnati area contributions. Examples include grants to the Drop Inn Center to create a viable fundraising program; to Safe Haven Farm, where Hatton was an early-stage investor in a new residential working farm for autistic adults; and for research on families with special needs done by a team at Sweeten Life Systems.

The Foundation has distributed over \$13 million in grants since 1997. Lunsford says, "Dr. Hatton, a simple man, would be so proud." Thanks to Dr. Hatton and the continued vision through Lunsford, the impact of this Cincinnati-based private foundation will continue in perpetuity. ❖



MEET SUSAN INGMIRE, President and Founder of Ignite Philanthropy Advisors. Ignite advances the charitable goals of family and corporate foundations, as well as individuals and nonprofits. As an independent firm, Ignite's team of consultants serves as strategic grantmaking and administrative staff. Ignite helps clients achieve their unique philanthropic goals in innovative and practical ways.

Ingmire has worked in trusted leadership positions in both the corporate and non-profit sectors for over 30 years in Cincinnati and in Columbus, Indiana, where she was program director of the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation. A committed volunteer, Ingmire is a founding partner of Social Venture Partners Cincinnati, a venture philanthropy giving circle.

In addition to ongoing advisory services, Ignite offers a fee-based planning service to help new foundations organize their giving goals and structure a grantmaking process. For more information, call Ignite at (513) 351-1945 or send an email to singmire@ignitephilanthropy.com.

Ignite Philanthropy Advisors is the strategic advisor and grants administrator of the Hatton Foundation.