

The Mabel Norton Adams Story

One of the most significant events in the history of Olean General Hospital took place in 1992 when a \$15 million bequest was given to the Hospital in loving memory of Mabel Norton Adams by her son, Charles.

The **Mabel Norton Adams Society** honors a dedicated group of individuals who have chosen to include Olean General Hospital in their estate plan.

A Remarkable Story...

Charles Norton Adams, a wealthy stockbroker who held a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, never lived in this community. His only tie to this area was his beloved mother, who lived here until she was twelve years old at which time her family relocated to Germantown, PA. The close ties that she formed in this community as a young child remained with her for life and upon her death in 1967, she was buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Hinsdale, New York.

Because of his deep affection for his mother, Mr. Adams wished to express his devotion for her in a dramatic and profound way.

Upon retiring a very wealthy man, Mr. Adams began his search for a special place to leave his legacy. After briefly considering a prestigious New York City academic institution, he refocused his energies in pursuit of a place in which significant good could be accomplished and where his vast fortune could make the greatest positive impact.

Although he made provisions for other worthy charitable causes, his decision to name Olean General Hospital as the major beneficiary was finalized when he visited his mother's final resting place in 1987. On this visit, he was warmly greeted by officials and physicians from Olean General Hospital and he discussed with them his intention to prepare for an everlasting memorial in honor of his mother.

Charles Norton Adams died on February 24, 1992 leaving a bequest of \$15 million in memory of his loving mother, Mrs. Mabel Norton Adams.

His Dream Realized

Never in the 100 year history of the hospital has a gift made such an enormous and dramatic impact. To date, this generous bequest - the largest ever received, is helping to fund the most extensive renovation, modernization and expansion project in the history of this hospital. Previously, portions of this bequest enabled the hospital to build much needed state of the art Family Birthing and Intensive Care Units. Consistent with Mr. Adams' wishes, the newly constructed and renovated areas prominently display his mother's name and portrait rather than his own.

In Gratitude

Words could never fully express our deep appreciation to this generous man. The love and devotion he had for his mother will be carried forward, day in and day out, as we continue our mission of healing and serving our community. May the caring hands inside these walls forever be a reflection of the love and admiration between a mother and her son.

This is truly a Living Legacy of Hope that will continue for years to come.