



Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins*, president, Angus Foundation

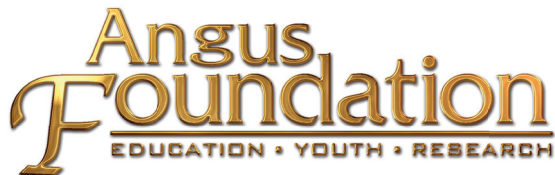
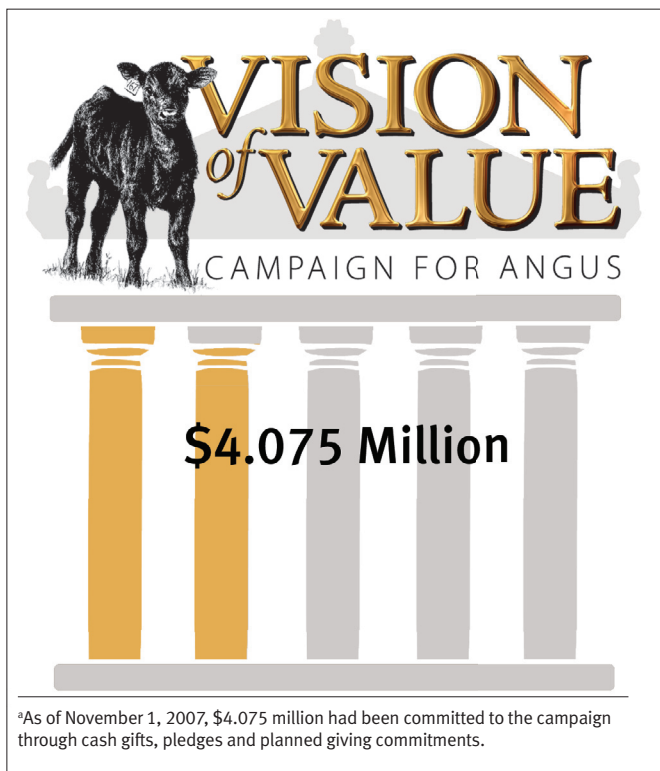
His heart was in his giving

These beautiful words so eloquently articulated by the minister describing my beloved late grandfather's giving to his church, family, neighbors and friends moved me to shed tears of joy, rather than of sorrow, at my granddad's recent memorial service. A role model for his four daughters and sons-in-law, nine grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, Granddad was a man after God's own heart and a role model for his family on how to be a servant to others, especially when it came to giving of his time, talent and treasure.

Spirit of giving

In making the nine-hour drive after his funeral service back home to Saint Joseph, Mo., and a few more miles since, I've had ample opportunity to reflect on my granddad's life. There were many fond memories of times spent with him working cattle, fixing fence, hauling hay, fishing, playing a spirited game of table tennis or seven-point pitch card games, hunting quail or simply relaxing with a glass of ice cold tea on a scorching hot Oklahoma summer afternoon in the shade of the front porch at his house. I have asked myself countless times if I, as a grandson of this incredibly gentle and kind person,

Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus status toward reaching fundraising goal of \$11 million by Dec. 31, 2011^a



have likewise engrained and instilled in my own heart the lesson of his priceless teaching.

Do I put my heart into my own giving? Am I carrying on my granddad's legacy and practicing his values about giving? Is my own daughter, now a teenager and sophomore in high school, learning from my example?

Wow, what thought-provoking and soul-searching questions.

And, if I may, I pose the same questions to you: Is your heart in your giving of time, talent and treasure to your church, family, neighbors, friends and the causes and organizations of personal interest to you? Are your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren learning the importance of giving?

As a farmer and rancher with a keen interest in hay crops and forage production for beef cattle, Granddad clearly understood the meaning of the parable of the sower in "as ye sow, so shall ye reap" and practiced this diligently in growing hay for baling, along with his giving. He enjoyed his agricultural labors with his cattle and farm equipment, as well as his charitable giving, and he found immeasurable satisfaction and joy in doing both.

One neat and funny story shared at the service about my granddad's giving was his financial gift to the church for a new organ during their capital campaign several years ago. While being admitted recently to the hospital for one of his age-related medical complications, the nurse completing his hospital patient admittance forms asked Granddad, "Mr. Woods, are you an organ donor?" Rumor has it my granddad, adjusting his hearing aid, smiled contently and replied with a chuckle, "Yes, I have donated an organ."

When it comes to giving, Winston Churchill perhaps summarized it best when he said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Indeed, Granddad immensely enjoyed his giving, and his heart was in his giving because he knew he was making life better for those following him in this journey of life.

In this holiday season, we will have the blessing and privilege to give of ourselves through our gifts, talents and treasure to church, family, neighbors and friends, charitable organizations and causes of interest to each of us. Through these personal expressions of our love and concern for our fellow mankind this holiday season and beyond, may our hearts always be in our giving.

Happy holidays from your friends at the Angus Foundation, and warmest wishes for a prosperous 2008. We appreciate your financial support and giving!