

# Generous Hearts

Husband and wife team dedicated to the Angus breed will impact the lives of Angus youth for years to come.

by **Carrie Horsley**, Angus Foundation

In our lives many of us strive to be role models for the next generation. Some of us work hard to be that kind of person. Others possess a natural affinity for helping others, never thinking in terms of how they will benefit from the outcome. Rather, they think about whom it will impact.

For Angus breeders Thomas and Catherine Chambers of Ontario, Ore., giving of themselves to help others came naturally. Earlier this spring, the Angus Foundation received the final settlement from their estate, creating the largest endowment to date funded by a single donor within the Angus Foundation. Their legacy will benefit Angus youth for years to come.

Both Kansas City natives (though Thomas was born in Kansas and Catherine was born across the river in Missouri), the couple married Aug. 19, 1948, in Reno, Nev. Finding their way to Oregon, they established the Chambers Angus herd near Ontario.

Thomas and Catherine, who had no children, used their generous hearts to help others, many times helping those getting started in the cattle business and the Angus breed. Described as a kind and gentle couple, they were willing to help anyone.

They were also planners and always thought about the future, says Rod Wesselman, then Association regional manager. They watched the Angus Foundation closely, as well as efforts toward its mission to support youth through education, scholarships and leadership activities.

## Making plans

In 1996, Thomas and Catherine made the decision to donate their entire estate to the Angus Foundation. Catherine wrote their intention to name the Angus Foundation as a charitable beneficiary on the front of the paper wrap cover of the April 1996 *Angus Journal* in response to the Angus



► Thomas and Catherine Chambers had a passion for the Angus breed and wanted to contribute to the development of youth involved in the NJAA, shares Rod Wesselman. Their legacy donation will continue to make a difference for years to come.

Foundation's financial support for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) explained on the inside back of the paper cover.

In the spring of 2006, the couple asked Wesselman to visit with them more about their plans to give to the Angus Foundation.

"The day I stopped was a day of honor and humbling," Wesselman says. "That was the day they asked me to become their personal representative and executor of their will. Wow! I said, 'Yes!'"

By naming the Angus Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in their estate plans, the Chambers became members of the Angus Legacy Society, a planned giving

program provided through the Angus Foundation.

Through his close connection with the couple, Wesselman was able to direct them to Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. They worked together to establish the Chambers' estate plans. Catherine passed away April 5, 2007, and Thomas followed Dec. 2, 2012. After the final settlement, the Angus Foundation received in excess of \$700,000 to help Angus youth.

During the 2013 Angus Foundation Supporter Recognition Event in Louisville, Ky., Thomas and Catherine were recognized and honored posthumously for their charitable gift. Their contribution will not be unnoticed in years to come, because it will impact many Angus youth along the way.

"It gives me the chills every time I talk about them," Wesselman says. "It is still hard to fathom that they donated their entire estate to benefit youth through the Angus Foundation."

The funds from their estate will support Angus youth activities through the Chambers Angus Endowment Fund, created in 2006. The couple started the endowment with \$75,000 in outright cash gifts during the *Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus*. It was their hope they would encourage others to do the same and support the Angus Foundation and Angus youth.

The Angus Foundation is very grateful to the Chambers for their contribution to Angus youth, says Jenkins, noting that it is Angus breeders like them who keep the Angus breed strong and help give opportunities to the next generation.

"These stories are the inspirational ones," says Wesselman. "The Chambers never thought of themselves; instead, it was about the Angus youth. Now this couples' legacy will live on in the lives of future Angus juniors."

If you would like to learn more about the Angus Legacy Society, please reference the advertisement on page 64 in this issue or visit [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org).



**Editor's Note:** Carrie Horsley is the director of marketing and public relations for the Angus Foundation.

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