



transforming

people's lives

“We’re only as good as the weakest, most vulnerable members of our community,” says Joe Horning. This belief runs deep with Joe and his wife, Lynne. Their concern for helping the region’s most vulnerable is inextricably woven into the family business and reflected in the many philanthropic projects that the Hornings support and spearhead.

As president of Horning Brothers, which has developed residential and commercial properties in the D.C. area since 1958, Joe has played an integral role in revitalizing neighborhoods across the city, including implementing after-school education programs and job training programs. He’s also deeply involved in a wide range of education projects in the city.

“Because I have this longstanding interest in education as an essential component of community development, I find that The Community Foundation is an excellent complement to my personal efforts,” Joe explains.

Lynne is equally committed to building a stronger community, with a particular passion for bringing the arts to underserved communities. She sees The Community Foundation as an ideal way to forge connections and become more aware of community needs. “The staff excels at finding new opportunities that fit with your interests, and they push you to look at things in new ways,” she says.

The Hornings recently worked with Community Foundation staff to organize a site visit for fellow donors to the Town Hall Education Arts & Recreation Campus (known as The ARC) in Southeast D.C. They also use The Community Foundation as a way to help their four grown children become more knowledgeable about philanthropy, with the entire family making grants from their San Miguel Foundation Fund.

Joe and Lynne also value the Community Foundation’s ability to accept alternative assets. “We’ve been able to gift portions of our real estate portfolio. It’s an optimum vehicle for that kind of gift,” Joe explains. “We’re also able to donate stock, and the transactions are handled as quickly and efficiently as they would be by any brokerage house.”

Recently, Horning Brothers developed Tivoli Square in Columbia Heights, a widely heralded mixed-use project that is bringing new life to an old neighborhood. “What’s so rewarding is that it’s based on a model that you can do socially motivated programs with an underpinning of economic strength,” Joe explains.

Tivoli Square epitomizes Joe’s penchant for using bricks and mortar development to leverage systemic, lasting change. The Community Foundation’s ability to maximize its impact in similar ways resonates with him.

“For instance, through its Community Fund, The Community Foundation uses its position in the community to act as a catalyst for change,” Joe says. “When we give to that fund, we know we’re increasing the reach of our charitable dollars, and that’s an ideal fit with our personal philosophy of giving.”