

# giving GIVING giving giving



## *Commitment to Community*

# A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

A significant gift to the Rochester Area Foundation that was announced Jan. 23, 2002, will have a long-lasting effect for the community.

An endowment fund set up by the late Dr. Virginia B. Hartridge, a retired Mayo Clinic physician, was a \$1.14 million gift to the foundation in 2001, however, at Dr. Hartridge's request, the gift was not to be announced until after her death. She died Nov. 22, 2001, at the age of 82.

The gift is the foundation's largest ever and was recognized at a news conference and luncheon.

Dr. Hartridge asked that her fund be used to "improve understanding of diversity issues and promote relationships among people of different backgrounds, expand opportunities to perform and enjoy music in our community and support special programs that will enrich the educational experience of students from preschool through graduate school in both public and private schools."

Dr. Hartridge lived at Charter House in downtown Rochester at the time of her death. She was a member of Mayo's Department of Anesthesiology and was an instructor in anesthesiology in the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and the University of Minnesota.

The Wisconsin native received a bachelor's degree from Milwaukee-Downer College in 1941 and a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1942. She was an officer and director of a laboratory of immunology in the Army Women's Medical Specialist Corps from 1943 to 1946.

Dr. Hartridge received her doctor of medicine degree from the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia in 1950 and came to Rochester in 1953 as a resident in anesthesiology in the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. In addition to interning in Philadelphia, she also was an officer assigned to active duty in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve. She was appointed a first assistant in anesthesiology at the school in 1956 and named to the clinic staff as a member of the Department of Anesthesiology later that year.

In 1964, Dr. Hartridge was named an instructor in anesthesiology in the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. She was certified as a specialist in her field in 1960 by the American Board of Anesthesiology Inc. and was a member of the American Medical Association, the Minnesota State Medical Association, the American Society of Anesthesiologists Inc., the International Anesthesia Research Society, the Zumbro Valley Medical Society, the New York Academy of Sciences and the Alpha Epsilon Iota women's professional medical fraternity. She also was a fellow of the American College of Anesthesiologists.

Dr. Hartridge maintained an interest in obstetrical anesthesia and in training programs for nurse-anesthetists. She also was director of the Mayo Clinic School for Nurse-Anesthetists and authored many articles for professional journals.

In addition, Dr. Hartridge was a foreign associate member of the Royal Society of Medicine of England and a fellow of the International Oceanographic Foundation. She also was a member of the National Audubon Society, the Isaak Walton League of America and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Rochester.