

Rochester Area Foundation - News & Publications**Quote of the Moment...**

In those days he was wiser than he is now; he used to frequently take my advice.

~Sir Winston Churchill ~

Beloved rootbeer stand owners leave legacy to help children

Press Release

October 25, 2006

Former R-Tic owners make bequest to benefit Rochester Ronald McDonald & Gift of Life Houses

Although they never had children of their own, Benedict and Eloise Dresbach were beloved by Rochester youths for 31 years as the owners of Rochester's favorite teen hangout, the R-Tic Rootbeer Stand. The couple sold the business in 1978 and then Ben passed away in 1986, followed more recently by Eloise in 2005.

Even after their deaths, however, the couple continues to bring joy to the lives of young people, this time in the form of a \$387,000 endowment with the Rochester Area Foundation to benefit children at the Rochester Ronald McDonald and Gift of Life Houses. The gift will be used to help needy children at either house while receiving treatment at Mayo Clinic.

Native Minnesotans, the Dresbachs owned the R-Tic Rootbeer Stand, also known as "Benny's," from 1947 to 1978. The drive-in was located at 24 Sixth St. SW and was famous for its car-hops, "Mexi" burgers, and caring owners, who'd drive their teenage employees home after work each night. Teens for several generations adored and confided in the Dresbachs, who believed that if you treated teenagers with respect, they would, in turn, give you respect.

"The Dresbachs spent the majority of their lives serving kids and loved every minute of it," says Rochester Area Foundation Executive Director Steve Thornton. "With their generous gift, children receiving care at the Ronald McDonald and Gift of Life Homes will continue to benefit from their warmth and kindness."

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