

A Philanthropic Family: From Catnip to Charitable Giving



Champion Circle members Tom and Nancy Eilers with their son, Luke

Tom and Nancy Eilers describe themselves as big, BIG cat people – they’ve loved and owned cats for many years. And while they’ve been fortunate to avoid a trip to the emergency room with one of their own, they have heard nothing but wonderful things about DoveLewis over the years. In fact, DoveLewis saved Nancy’s sister’s cat after a coyote attack.

Philanthropy has always been important to the Eilers, and they have managed to find creative ways to give back over the years – both through work and personal endeavors.

Tom founded their family business, Northwest Compounding, in 2005 after years of working in a corporate pharmacy environment. From the beginning, his mission was simple – provide the highest quality compounded medications to patients in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner at reasonable prices. Business has proven strong, and Northwest Compounding has grown rapidly over the last 12 years. Tom and Nancy’s son, Luke, recently joined the business after earning his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2014. Among their clients are people picking up prescriptions for their pets, including many who have been patients at DoveLewis.

While Nancy does not participate in the day-to-day business, their family’s support for DoveLewis and other charitable causes is visible on the front counter where her handcrafted catnip pillows are sold.

Not long after retiring from teaching, Nancy purchased a cat pillow at a street fair that became a beloved toy for their cat, Moose, now 16 years old. But when it wore out quickly, she decided to see if she could sew one herself that would last longer. After she made more than Moose needed, Tom suggested they sell the extras at the front counter of Northwest Compounding, with proceeds benefiting their favorite charities. She had been looking for a volunteer opportunity, but this was even better – a philanthropic hobby.

Four years later, Nancy has sold more than 1,900 of her irresistible cat pillows to clients and shared the proceeds with DoveLewis and other groups dear to their hearts. She now has a friend who helps her keep up with the demand as she cannot produce enough pillows on her own.

Nancy and Tom love participating in DoveLewis’ annual gala, Wet Nose Soirée, where they can meet others who support DoveLewis. And they are proud to be part of the DoveLewis Champion Circle, which recognizes donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. They feel fortunate to be at a stage in their lives and business that allows them to help organizations making a difference for other people (and, of course, their beloved cats). ■



The Eilers’ cat, Moose, with one of Nancy’s catnip pillows

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