

Peter "Shep" Brock

Sending Good into the World

Shep Brock has never lived in the Upper Valley, but his family has roots here. His grandparents Gertrude and Robert Mertens had a home in Woodstock, Vermont, and supported the expansion of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in 1947. Then, in 1966, his grandfather received outstanding treatment at Mary Hitchcock following a serious car accident. That inspired the first of many family donations to Dartmouth's medical school.

"Our relationship with the Dartmouth medical community started with my grandparents, and then Mom and Dad got involved," Shep says. "My parents made philanthropy a core value of our family."

Shep's parents, Peter and Jennifer Brock, regularly added to the scholarship fund established by the Mertens, which is now the largest scholarship fund at Geisel. They've also made significant contributions to scientific research and global outreach programs at the medical school, as well as numerous major gifts to Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

"My parents taught us that part of being a member of any community is that you give back to it," says Shep.

When Peter died in February 2019, Shep and his siblings "wanted to capitalize on the momentum he'd created and steer it in a direction of recognizing him." He explains, "My dad was the driving force in our family for many things but he never took credit for it. I would have loved to see him get more recognition while he was alive but am glad to see his legacy continue to inspire others."

The Peter R. Brock Leadership Scholars Endowment will provide need-based financial support to international students attending Geisel. Shep's brothers Steve and Jeff have contributed generously to the fund and gifts from other donors are welcome.

"Our parents were very committed to their local community but they felt that the larger challenges abroad in the world should be addressed as well," notes Shep. "Of great concern are the huge disparities of well-being around the globe. By choosing to fund scholarships for international students, we're helping to create opportunities people may not otherwise have."

Shep was also inspired to give to scholarships because of the experiences his parents had with the Geisel medical students they'd met through their own support.

"My mom wrote letters to the students who benefited from the Mertens scholarship and it was really gratifying for her. And my parents were so moved by the Match Day ceremonies they'd attended that they'd come home in tears," Shep says. "Funding scholarships can form connections that multiply. I really like thinking of philanthropy in that way—sending good out into the world more broadly."

Paul and Mark Lena

It Runs in the Family

Paul J. Lena D '50, MED '51 loved his family. He loved the practice of medicine. And he loved Dartmouth.

When he died in 2007, he left behind legacies to each. To his family he left heartwarming memories and a strong ethical foundation. To the field of medicine he left hundreds of students whom he'd mentored through rotations in physical diagnosis at Concord Hospital in New Hampshire. And to Dartmouth's medical school he left a charitable remainder trust he'd established in 1996 in honor of his father, Hugh F. Lena Sr., MD, Dartmouth College Class of 1912.

"Dad was always passionate about medicine," recalls Paul Lena's son Mark Lena D '78, MED '81, who practices gastroenterology in Bangor, Maine, and who, like his father did, donates to the medical school. Paul Lena's commitment to supporting Dartmouth medical students led to a powerful act on Mark's part. When the trust terminated in 2019 with the passing of his mother, Joan H. Lena, Mark and his wife, Kathy, personally delivered the check that would create the Hugh F. Lena Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at Geisel.

Mark is the third generation of doctors in his family—but far from the last. His two sons are both physicians, as are several of his cousins, nieces, and nephews. Among them, they cover a range of specialties, but Mark knows his father's priority was always primary care.

"We realize that many medical students today choose higher-paying specialties over primary care because they're driven by debt," Mark says. "We hope that by lessening the financial burden on Geisel students, the scholarship will allow more Dartmouth-educated physicians to follow their hearts into primary care."

“

We hope that by lessening the financial burden on Geisel students, the scholarship will allow more Dartmouth-educated physicians to follow their hearts into primary care.”



Mark, Paul, and Joan Lena.