Children learn by example and often inherit your character traits. So what better way to teach them your value of giving, along with the value of a dollar, than by involving them in your philanthropic decisions?

That’s just what Matt and Karen Cullen did with their three sons when the family gave a generous gift to St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC) in 2011 that led to their McQuade Society membership. The Cullens chose to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where their youngest son had spent three weeks as a newborn.

“It was an obvious choice for us to pick the NICU; we spent a lot of time there when John was born and were incredibly impressed by the compassionate, skilled people caring for the babies,” Matt said. “We were offered a menu of priorities that needed support, and we thought it was a good time to engage our boys in philanthropy and show them the importance of giving. We decided to let them select what would be funded with our donation; we gave them an amount to allocate for whatever they thought was important.”

After studying the list and having much discussion, the two younger boys wanted to get cribs and incubators for the babies in the NICU. The Cullens’ oldest son, who had spent a lot of time in the waiting room waiting for his little brother to come home, thought that comfortable furniture would be helpful to families.

“The boys had fun making the choices; they had to move money around to make the total amount work for what they wanted,” Matt said. “It was a great learning experience.”

The boys—Matthew, now 18; Ryan, 15; and John, 13—have since been involved in other philanthropic endeavors, including the “I Love Lucy” fundraiser for Lucy Loch, a close family friend, who was treated for Hodgkin’s lymphoma at SJH&MC’s Meade Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center. The boys volunteered...
McQuade Reception honors members

You—our McQuade Society members and most loyal supporters of St. John Providence Health System—were thanked for your investment and dedication at the annual McQuade Reception on Sept. 21 at the Grosse Pointe Club. Guests mingled, enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres and were updated by David Brooks, President and CEO, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, on accomplishments and initiatives taking place within the hospital and health system to better serve our community. He focused on community outreach ventures including the opening of Covenant Community Care, the expansion of school-based health centers on the east side and the addition of the innovative Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography and Health Screening Center. Dave also highlighted the opening of the new St. John Medical Center - Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Campus and the expansion of the Mary Ann Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Nursery. If you missed the event and would like more information on any of these initiatives, please let us know.
New McQuade Society members

Please welcome the following new members to the McQuade Society. They joined our exclusive group of loyal benefactors between July 1, 2013, and Oct. 3, 2014.

Ms. Maryann Barnes
Wayne G. and Lynn L. Bell/Bell Forklift Inc.
Mrs. Cheryl Bradshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Clark
Patricia and Gary Colett
Dr. and Mrs. Marc L. Cullen
Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Danforth
Mrs. Elizabeth Echlin
Eugenio Family
Marlene and Joe Foerster
Dr. Darla K. Granger and Mr. Luke Ponder
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kluge
Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Kross
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Lovasco
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Michael
Dr. and Mrs. Frank A. Nesi
Mary McLean Owen
Dr. and Mrs. Mohamad S. Rahbar
Jay Ricci
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Sattler
Tricia and Matt Schaden
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory T. Schaden
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Shammas
Sharon and Tom Shumaker
Mr. Gerard P. Smith
Mr. Jeffrey C. Smith
David Smith and Susan Mooney Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Ted A. Stahl
Pamela K. Stanton
Dr. Tymon Totte and Mrs. Sheryl Kline Totte
Mrs. Anne Marie Williams
Spotlight: Matthew and Karen Cullen  Continued from page 1

for the volleyball event and raised money to assist Lucy’s family who, in turn, donated the proceeds to the Meade Center to help other families.

Matt says the boys’ participation in these activities has helped get them engaged in the community and excited about helping others. “And when they have a personal connection to the person or organization they are helping and a belief in its purpose, the experience has more meaning to them,” he said.

The same holds true for Matt and Karen.

“St. John is important to us personally and on a broader community level. Our three boys were born here, we’ve had many trips to the ER as well as all our other health care here,” Matt said. “I have a great interest in St. John Hospital and got engaged because I wanted to help an organization that is critically important to our community and has a passion for its mission.”

Because of his strong background in real estate and facilities development, Matt was approached to become a member of the St. John Health Foundation Board during the capital campaign for the expansion of SJH&MC. The Cullens feel that giving your time is just as important as contributing financially, so Matt embraced the request and served on the board from 2005 to 2013.

Matt is president and CEO of Rock Ventures, LLC, the entity which provides operational coordination to entrepreneur Dan Gilbert’s portfolio of companies and investments. Previously, Matt was a 29-year veteran at General Motors, where he was general manager of economic development and enterprise services.

As founding chairman of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, Matt has helped oversee the billion dollar redevelopment of the city’s riverfront. In addition, he serves as volunteer president and CEO of the M-1 RAIL streetcar initiative for Woodward Ave. Matt is also involved in many other city initiatives and is on the boards of several community organizations.

Matt’s motivation for his strong focus on Detroit is simple. “Detroit is my hometown, I grew up here when it was vibrant, my family and friends are here, and I want our city to be a thriving place again for our children and those in the future,” Matt said.

Between family, work and volunteer obligations, the Cullens receive their health care at SJH&MC, where they now have the advantage of being McQuade Society members.

“While the quality of care is the same high level for all patients, McQuade Society membership gives us an extra level of attention,” Matt said. “It’s great to be identified as a member and have the personal attention and interaction. You feel more engaged in the place you are supporting; your membership is beneficial to both you and the hospital.”

Membership reminder

Membership in the McQuade Society is available to our benefactors and most loyal supporters to thank you for your generous, charitable commitment to SJH&MC. Beth Carter is available to members 24 hours a day to help navigate your health services to ensure your complete satisfaction when using the hospital.

Please remember services are for members only. You may refer your friends to us for membership if they wish to enjoy member privileges.

Thanks to your assistance, membership in the McQuade Society has grown. When you refer your friends and family, it is the highest compliment to us. To make it easier to share information about how to qualify for McQuade membership, details are located at http://www.stjohnprovidence.org/McquadeSociety and in brochures available from Beth (313-343-4602) or the St. John Health Foundation (313-343-7480).