History of The Davee Foundation

The Davee Foundation was incorporated on November 5, 1964 as a not-for-profit family foundation. It was founded by Ken M. Davee and his wife, Adeline Barry Davee. The Original officers were Ken M. Davee, President and Treasurer and Adeline B. Davee, Secretary.

The original by-laws gave the purpose of the foundation as supporting religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational entities, although, the foundation never supported any religious entities.

In its early years, the Foundation was used by the Davees to make their annual year-end gifts to organizations they supported.

Mr. Davee was a successful businessman who founded Davee, Koehnlein & Keating Co., an international marketing research company. Upon the sale of the company, Mr. Davee joined with another individual to purchase troubled medical related companies and turn them around.

Adeline Barry Davee died in Honolulu, Hawaii on April 19, 1987. The Foundation created two chairs in her honor, one at Case Western Reserve University in History, and one at Northwestern University's Kellogg School.

Mr. Davee remarried in December 1988 to Ruth Dunbar. It was after Ken married Ruth that the foundation started to make larger grants. The main recipient of many of their grants was the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, particularly in the area of research for Depression and Alzheimer's disease.

Over the years, the Foundation centered its giving to Chicago area entities, but not exclusively. In addition to medical related grants, they supported cultural, scientific, public affairs and educational entities.

The Foundation closed down during 2019, making final endowment grants to keep the memories of the Davees alive.