



Remembering Don Diamond

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TUCSON, Ariz. - The University of Arizona lost a champion and major supporter Monday with the passing of civic leader, businessman and philanthropist Don Diamond.

"Don was so invested in this community," said John-Paul Roczniak, president and CEO of the University of Arizona Foundation. "He and his family have made an immeasurable impact through their philanthropy in so many ways, from transforming the lives of families whose children were treated at Diamond Children's Medical Center to improving the fan experience at McKale Memorial Center."

Don and his wife Joan, who died in 2017, met as students at the UA in the late 1940s. They married in 1952 and moved to New York. Don began a successful career in commodities on Wall Street, from which he retired at the age of 37. He and Joan brought their three daughters to Tucson, but retired life didn't suit Don and he began a second career as a real estate developer.

Over the decades, as his business expanded, Don also invested in giving back to Tucson, including at the UA. Athletics, the Eller College of Management, fine arts and education were among the areas that benefited from the Diamond family's generosity, and their giving to Judaic studies at the UA reflected broader support of the Jewish community in Tucson.

But the centerpiece of the family's UA giving was in health sciences.

Don and Joan were committed to supporting children's health, and invested in the Steele Children's Research Center and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Most notably, they created a deeply personal legacy by contributing \$15 million to name the Diamond Children's Medical Center.

In addition to his philanthropic support of the UA, Don also gave of his time and energy, serving on the Eller College National Board of Advisors since its inception in the early 1980s. He and Joan were awarded the UA Alumni Achievement Award in 2010.

"I am so grateful for the family legacy that Don and Joan created here at the University of Arizona," said Roczniak.