

Sumner McK. Crosby
COMMUNITY LEADER

Leadership in Personal Philanthropy



Sumner Crosby is a philanthropist for whom giving to community is a way of life. His involvement goes beyond gift-making. His philosophy is to be a partner with the organizations he supports and to seek out other partners.

In this way, he multiplies tenfold the investments he makes to local nonprofit organizations with the power of his personal zeal and commitment.

For several decades Sumner has brought that intimate personal philanthropy to local organizations too numerous to mention, many of them involving his passion for quality education, the arts and programs that benefit women and children. He has provided attentive leadership to the Regional Cultural Plan and the growth of United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society.

And everyone who works with him recognizes his modesty. He insists that his work in the community is nothing special but only his own civic responsibility.

"I don't know what the term philanthropy really means," he says. "I'm just very involved personally. My father's parents set him on this track, and he set all his children on the same track — that we all should do what we can to benefit the community."