

Providence Milwaukie Foundation News

'Do the right thing' philosophy keeps company strong and supportive

With 56 years of experience at Holman Distribution Center, Leonard P. Clark knows how to build a business that lasts.

"Listen to your customer" is one building block. "And another one would be, 'Always do the right thing,'" he says. "That's just very important. Integrity is right at the top of the list."

When a Providence Milwaukie Hospital administrator asked Leonard his reason for supporting a Foundation fund-raising campaign, he replied, "It's the right thing to do."

In fact, Leonard then went to fellow leaders at Holman Distribution in Milwaukie and told them the same thing, his niece Libby Agosti recalls with a smile.

"He is not an easy sell," says Libby, chair of Holman Distribution, "but is very committed to Providence."

Leonard, chair emeritus and co-owner of Holman, supports Providence Milwaukie Foundation as a donor, an honorary board member and a booster within his company. Holman Distribution is a member of the Business Alliance Club, made up of businesses that donate \$1,000 or more a year to the foundation.

"Our company has employees working in Milwaukie and Clackamas, and if they get sick or injured, it's important to me that they have good care nearby," he says. "Providence Milwaukie Hospital is a good institution and a necessary facility for this community, and supporting it is one way that we can do our share for the community."

A valuable member of the community in its own right, Holman Distribution operates 600,000 square feet of warehouse space and a fleet of trucks in Clackamas, Milwaukie and northwest Portland. Holman serves businesses' supply chain needs not only in Oregon but also in the Seattle area and in Eastern states. The

company that began in Portland in 1864 with draft horses and wagons now takes in products from around the world.

"It's just incredible," Leonard says of Holman's expansion. His father, Herbert Clark Sr., bought the company before the Great Depression and instilled sound business skills and values in Leonard and his brother, the late Herbert M. Clark Jr., who was a major driving force behind the company.

Now Holman's modest patriarch at 89, Leonard

still enjoys coming to the office and rubbing shoulders with third-generation family members.

His niece Libby and his son-in-law Robert Downie, president of Holman Distribution, join him in attending Providence Milwaukie Foundation events. Leonard keeps in shape with golf, neighborhood walks and the benefits of Providence cardiac care.

"Leonard always seems to have positive thoughts on his mind," notes Dick Lindsay, a fellow foundation board member and a neighbor. "He's always looking at the bright side of things. He's a gentleman and a sweetheart."

Someone, you could say, who does the right thing.



Shelves of a Holman warehouse serve as a backdrop for Leonard Clark (center), Robert Downie and Libby Agosti.