

Over half a century ago, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, one of Chicagoland's **CITIZEN LEADERS**, worked to make our community a better place and left a lasting **LEGACY OF SERVICE.**

He believed in the future
and in **EDUCATING**
young people.

CITIZEN LEADERS...

Learn through a lifetime and share
knowledge with others.



A young woman with curly hair is sitting at a desk, pointing at a laptop screen. A young man is leaning over her shoulder, looking at the screen with a smile. They are in a library or study area, with bookshelves visible in the background. The woman is wearing a brown hoodie over a purple shirt. The man is wearing a dark sweater over a light-colored shirt.

As a crusading publisher
and editor, and a passionate
defender of the First
Amendment and a free
press—he believed in
protecting each citizen's
right to know and
INFORMING them
of the news of the day.

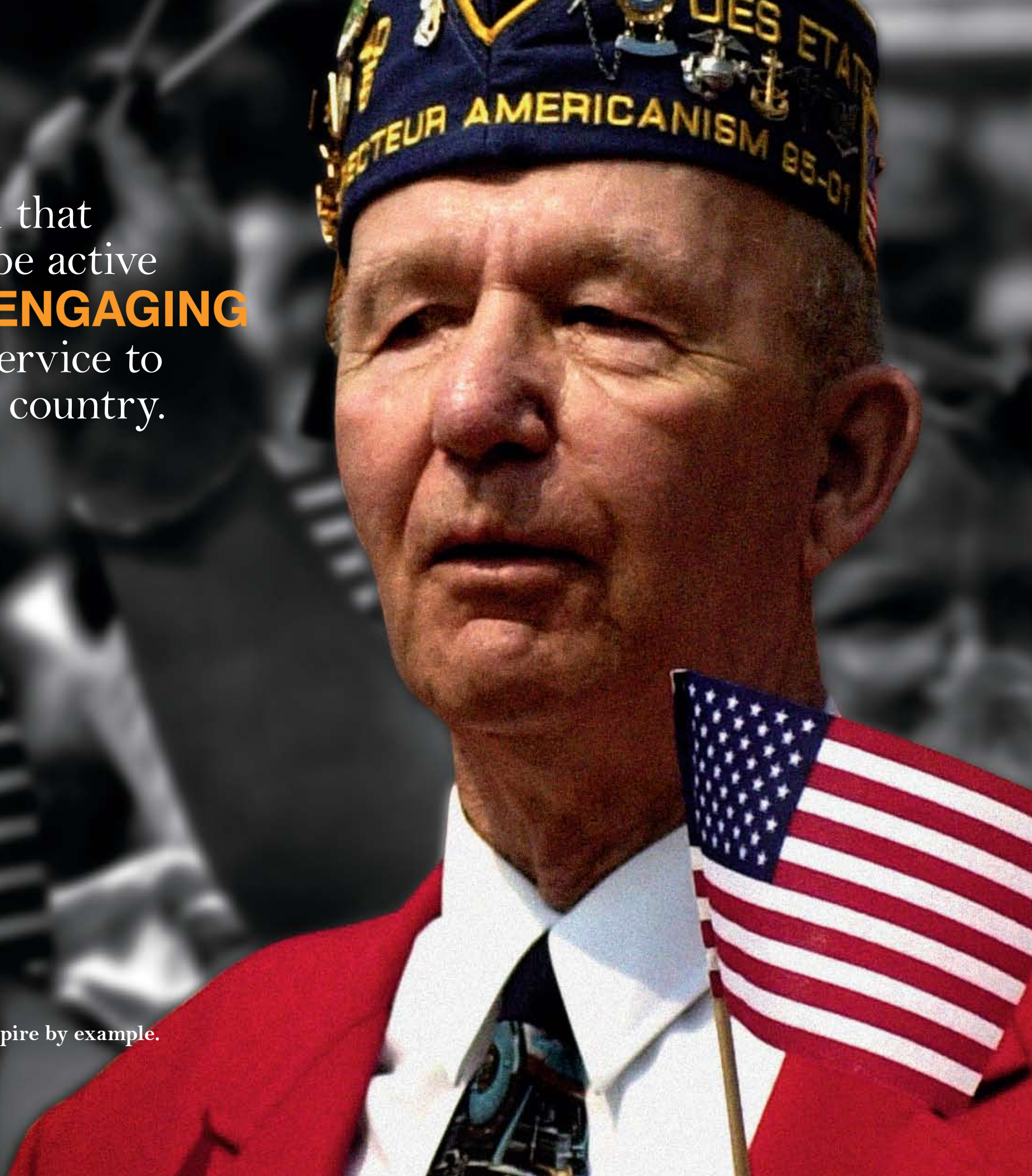
CITIZEN LEADERS...

Seek out information on issues affecting their community and actively share information with others, enabling sound decision making and effective action.

And he believed that
citizens should be active
and involved—**ENGAGING**
with others in service to
community and country.

CITIZEN LEADERS...

Turn beliefs into action and inspire by example.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since becoming president of the Foundation last year, I have felt the privilege and responsibility of carrying on the work Col. McCormick chartered 55 years ago when he created this charitable trust to benefit the people of Chicagoland and the nation.



While conservative in his politics, McCormick was also an innovator and inventor (he held 5 patents), and loved to try new things. He brought the *Chicago Tribune* into each “new media” of his time—first radio, then television. So he knew better than many in his era that times change.

This past year we took a page from the book of McCormick the innovator, and engaged in an extensive review of our strategies. It seemed a good time to do this, with a new president and two new members coming onto our Board of Directors—Ruthellyn Musil and Don Wycliff—as well as waves of change in the areas where the Foundation has focused.

On the view that effective strategic planning is about asking the right questions, we asked a lot of them: What areas do we want to focus on in the future? What geographic scope is best? What impacts do we want to have, and how will we know we are making progress?

Working with our Board, we have reaffirmed our commitment to the key areas of our work—education, journalism and the First Amendment, citizen engagement, and strengthening families and communities. All of our programs strive to improve our communities by giving people the means by which they themselves can engage with other citizens to make things better.

Across the Foundation, our planning has emphasized understanding what impact our work is having. We are committed to having measurable, systemic impact on the areas we invest in, and holding ourselves accountable for these results.

Ultimately, our impact turns on the work of the dedicated staff I am so fortunate to have as colleagues, and the extraordinary people and grantee organizations whose work in the community inspires us every day.

Sincerely,

David Hiller
President and Chief Executive Officer

EDUCATION

Lifelong learning starts with the education of our youngest citizens. Years of research show that early childhood development heavily influences health, economic and social outcomes for individuals over a lifetime.

For nearly 20 years, early education has been a cornerstone of the McCormick Foundation’s commitment to children. To date, the Foundation has invested more than \$90 million in a broad range of activities to help build a system of quality early care and education in Illinois for all children ages birth through eight.

The Foundation focuses on three funding priority areas: public policy, public awareness and quality services. These programs help more children to have access to high-quality early learning opportunities that will prepare them to be active and engaged members of our society.

Investing in early childhood development programs — particularly for low-income children — provides a 10% annual rate of return to society.

James J. Heckman, University of Chicago economist and Nobel Prize winner, and Dimitriy V. Masterov, The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children, October 2004

JOURNALISM

Nothing is more critical to the vitality of democracy than a free, vigorous news media that provides citizens the information they need to make reasoned decisions. With the rapid evolution of news media and the inundation of news and information sources, it’s more important than ever to develop intelligent consumers of news. Today, the McCormick Foundation seeks to develop a more informed, news-literate and engaged citizenry by investing in relevant, quality content, educating news audiences to understand and appreciate the value of news content, and protecting First Amendment freedoms.

A recent study revealed that given today’s new multi-platform media environment, people’s relationship to news is becoming portable, personalized and participatory.

Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project and the Project for Excellence in Journalism, March 2010



CIVIC PROGRAM

The McCormick Foundation is dedicated to improving access to quality civic education and engagement opportunities for Chicagoland youth ages 12-22. The Foundation pursues this by promoting civic knowledge, skills and attitudes among youth; building the capacity of civic education teachers; developing lifelong civic habits among youth; and more broadly, strengthening the civic education system.

Over time, the Foundation strives to make Chicagoland a model of civic health by providing its youth with a foundation of knowledge, skills and opportunities essential to lifelong civic engagement.

Three quarters of people surveyed in Illinois support making civic education more effective, including community service opportunities.
Illinois Civic Health Index, 2009

COMMUNITIES

Today, the McCormick Foundation partners with media outlets and sports teams in select communities across the country to raise money for local needs, using matching funds to stimulate local giving and increase the positive impact of individual contributions.

Since 1990, thanks to people’s generosity and the momentum provided by our partners, the Foundation has raised more than \$500 million, and awarded more than \$750 million in grants to thousands of agencies across the U.S., including \$250 million in matching Foundation funds.

To help achieve greater impact, the Foundation is focusing its work with partners on transitioning low-income families to self-sufficiency through programs that support youth education and health, literacy and workforce development.

Individuals without a high school diploma are over three times more likely to live in extreme poverty than those with a college degree.
Heartland Alliance, January 2010



VETERANS

Robert R. McCormick was a citizen soldier who believed in service to country and had a lifelong commitment to those who serve in our nation’s armed forces.

The McCormick Foundation continues this commitment to serving those who have served our country and also their families. In particular, our nation’s younger veterans are experiencing new and complex challenges as they transition to civilian life. By investing in critical services such as adaptive housing, family care, employment training and mental/physical support, the Foundation helps veterans realize their full potential, and honors their service and sacrifice.

Veterans are 10% of the U.S. adult population, but they represent 33% of U.S. adult homeless population.
Department of Veterans Affairs’ CHALENG Report, March 2009

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Robert R. McCormick believed in supporting the city he loved and today his legacy of generosity can be felt across Chicago.

The McCormick Foundation strengthens Chicagoland through a tradition of grants to healthcare, cultural, education and human service organizations. Today, the Foundation is committed to being responsive to the changing needs in the Chicago region.

Since 1985, the Foundation has granted over \$37 million to healthcare institutions across the entire Chicago region, helping provide countless families access to quality healthcare services.

CANTIGNY PARK

Robert R. McCormick left his estate, Cantigny, as a public park for the recreation, instruction and welfare of the people of Illinois. It was a remarkable gift to the community.

Located in Wheaton, Illinois, Cantigny’s 500 acres feature spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum, a 27-hole championship golf course, dining facilities and much more. Throughout the year, many special events, concerts, lectures and classes are offered at Cantigny, too.

Cantigny Park is named after the Battle of Cantigny, the first major American victory of World War I, in which Robert McCormick commanded an artillery battalion.



ROBERT R. McCORMICK

He believed that
we all can be
CITIZEN LEADERS
and that we all
have the power to
**CHANGE THE
FUTURE.**

After 55 years,
we still do.



For more information about the
McCormick Foundation, please visit
mccormickfoundation.org/new