



NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST



CONNECTIONS

From the CEO



Nancy M. Russell (1930 - 2018)

The Trust family is mourning the loss of founding Trustee Nancy M. Russell, who passed away May 2, 2018 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Nancy was a longtime friend of Nina Pulliam, and upon Nina's death in 1997, Nancy became a founding trustee for the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. She joined her husband, Frank Russell, Nina's longtime business associate and advisor, and Nina's niece Carol Peden Schilling, in forming the first board of trustees for the newly established foundation. Together, Nancy, Carol and Frank shaped the Trust, drawing upon their deep understanding of who Nina was and about which causes she was most passionate.

As a trustee, Nancy was known for her compassionate community concern and boardroom acumen. During her tenure from 1998 to 2011, the Trust awarded more than \$195 million to 845 nonprofit organizations in Arizona and Indiana.

Trust Chair Carol Peden Schilling said of Nancy, "Sitting on the Trust board with Nancy, as founding members, was a delight. She brought a warmth and a sparkle to the meetings. She was kind to everyone and tenderhearted about the nonprofits who applied to us for grants. She had been one of Nina's closest and dearest friends for many, many years, and she brought to our decisions a good sense of what Nina would have chosen. She was an inspiration to me."

During her tenure with the Trust, Nancy was particularly proud of her role in helping develop the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program, which helps individuals who have endured significant adversity pursue a college education. She enjoyed getting to know the scholars and had an uncanny ability to make them, and everyone, feel welcome and at ease. In her own words, "Nina Pulliam believed education was the most important thing an individual could earn. Education is the great equalizer. Education allows you to stand on your own two feet. Education allows you to realize your dreams."

Nancy and Frank retired as trustees in 2011, though their impact and inspiration continue to be felt at the Trust today. Nancy's daughter, Lisa Shover Kackley, is a current trustee.

Trustee Kent E. Agness reminisces, "Those of us who formed the Trust had worked with Nina for many years, and it was important to us that we create an organization and undertake grantmaking that was in complete alignment with Nina's lifelong interests and final wishes. It was a pleasure to work with Nancy to develop the Trust and its programs, and to witness her sincere concern for the organizations and individuals we strive to help."

On a personal note, I first met Nancy during the 1980s, when I worked at The Arizona Republic. I had the pleasure of knowing her for more than 30 years. She was unfailingly gracious, elegant and generous. Nancy had a zest for life that was infectious, and her love for her family, friends and community was always evident. She was a kind and good-humored mentor to my wife and me in our early careers as we learned to navigate community relations and social duties. I am better for knowing her and am so glad I did.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, May 16 at 4 p.m. at the Heard Museum Steele Auditorium in Phoenix, and all who knew her are welcome to attend. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Nancy's name to Hospice of the Valley at hov.org/donate.

Nancy's legacy at the Trust will long endure. She was a joy and we miss her.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene D'Adamo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene D'Adamo, President and CEO

© Copyright 2018 Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Helping People in Need | Protecting Animals and Nature | Enriching Community Life

INDIANA | 135 N Pennsylvania Street, Suite 1200 | Indianapolis, IN 46204 | 317.231.6075
ARIZONA | 2201 E Camelback Road, Suite 600B | Phoenix, AZ 85016 | 602.955.3000

ninpulliamtrust.org | [Unsubscribe](#) | [View online](#)

This email was sent to: **ICuen@nmpct.org**



This email was sent by: Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
135 N Pennsylvania Street, Suite 1200 Indianapolis, IN 46204 USA

We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#).

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [One-Click Unsubscribe](#)