

It takes all of thirty seconds speaking with Betty Lauricella to feel her warmth. She speaks with both a softness and a smile, but this shouldn't belie the wisdom in her words. Betty is rarely the first at the table to talk—but when she does, people listen.

Friends, family, and colleagues unanimously describe Betty as warm, gracious, and thoughtful—a woman who worries about the right things and never loses sight of her goal to provide every resident in our region with access to a safe, healthy, and prosperous future, regardless of that individual's race or means.

So it is no surprise that Betty has managed to leave every organization she's worked with better than she found it. From Children's Hospital and the Children's Museum, to the Catholic Foundation, to Jesuit and Sacred Heart, to our very own Greater New Orleans Foundation and beyond, Betty has time and again proven herself to have both a sharp mind and a pure heart. She involves herself for all the right reasons, never seeking spotlight or praise. In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a woman who has so *quietly* left such an enormous footprint on the philanthropic landscape in our region.

It is *also* no surprise that Betty has so often found herself in positions of leadership, as her style is a reflection of the woman herself: informed, purposeful, collaborative, and dedicated. And this dedication extends into other, perhaps less expected, areas of her life, as well: just ask her about the career of Steph Curry or the line-up and stats of her beloved Cincinnati Reds. This octogenarian brings new meaning to the phrase "greatest sports fan of all time".

As the leader of her own teams, Betty's effectiveness is amplified by her willingness and ability to hear the perspectives of others and to bring these voices together in harmony.

In her time at GNOF – both as a board member and ultimately as Chair – Betty gave voice to the perspectives of those in our region beyond New Orleans. She did this

herself as a representative from Jefferson, but also through her efforts to recruit top talent from other parishes to serve on the board and make their voices heard, as well. As Betty says, “There’s so much to do, so be a spokesman for a better way of doing things. Be vocal and willing to stand up for what you believe.”

Betty’s service at GNOF always crossed parish lines, and she demonstrated a clear commitment to regionalism, believing that by strengthening all the members of regional network, we would ultimately expand the capacity of the whole.

As Chair, she prioritized building a strong board full of leaders who not only possessed knowledge of their own area, but also an understanding of how all the interconnected links work together and influence one another. She looked for those who understood the long-term potential of a community foundation and shared a mission for doing things better. Most importantly, she looked for individuals she could envision one day stepping into the role of Board Chair.

Betty would have quickly filled her own job listing.

Betty embodies the idea of inclusivity, and—as her son Louis puts it—she has “an innate talent to make everyone she touches feel special.” Betty – we at GNOF are so very lucky to have been touched by your warmth, dedication, and many talents, and we thank you for your service.