



LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER
Sandie and Terry McCarthy
by Bonnie Dorrans

“People are weird. When we find someone with weirdness that is compatible with ours, we team up and call it love.” - Dr. Seuss

Call it weirdness or whatever you want, Sandie and Terry McCarthy found it many years ago. They fell in love as high school students in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and then attended college-- Notre Dame for Terry and Central Michigan University for Sandie. In 1963 after Sandie had graduated and begun teaching 2nd grade and Terry had finished his first year in dentistry school, they married.

It was also that year that Terry entered the Navy Early Commission Program. Upon graduation in 1966 he was stationed at the US Navy Dental Clinic in Yokosuka, Japan. Sandie and their new son, Brendan, were allowed to accompany him. During the three years they were in Japan, a second son, Trevor, was born. As he neared the age of one, Sandie suspected he had a hearing problem.

Travel during the Vietnam War was not easy, especially for civilians. It took persistence, patience and time to get to John Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore. There it was determined that Trevor had profound hearing loss in both ears. Realizing all the implications of Trevor's disability was devastating for his parents, but it made them both determined that Trevor would receive all the help they could give him so that he could learn to process language and even learn to talk.

Following Japan, Terry was assigned to the US Navy Dental Clinic in Long Beach, and Trevor was enrolled at the John Tracy Clinic. With Terry working, Sandie devoted her time to her children. Both boys benefitted from her daily language lessons, and driving them to their different schools over the years just became part of her regular routine.

A baby girl, Bronwyn, completed the McCarthy family in 1973. One of the family's favorite activities over the years was traveling. Each member chose a place they most wanted to visit. A sample of their world travels includes China, Africa, Australia, Europe, and Russia.

All their many experiences helped to shape Sandie and Terry's lives. Terry, who only recently retired, has held many leadership positions on various levels of dental and specialty organizations. Among Sandie's many activities are past-president of the Harbor Dental Auxiliary, Long Beach Day Nursery sustaining member, and a 30-year board member and immediate past president of the Cypress College Foundation. She

has also been a life coach to those who know her. For years she has sent letters and e-mails of encouragement and inspiration to others.

It's no surprise then that Sandie has been an outstanding member of Assistance League of Long Beach. She joined in 1984 as a member of the "Dinghys." During the 32 years she has been a member, she has chaired many committees, including a five-year term as Assisteens® Coordinator. She has held most elected positions, culminating with her presidency in 1996-97.

Terry has contributed his expertise to the Orthodontic Clinic. Not only has he served as an advisor, he also has performed over 600 oral surgery procedures pro bono for patients of the Orthodontic Program. Seeing the quality of the leadership and membership as well as all that Assistance League of Long Beach does for the community, Terry concludes that there is no better organization. It is the model for how to run a nonprofit.

It makes sense that Sandie and Terry are part of the Endowment and the Legacy Society. Over the years, they have contributed thousands of hours of their time to the organization. Now they want to make sure that Assistance League of Long Beach will continue to thrive long into the future. "We know," they say, "that a gift today will ensure positive change in the lives of others."

It doesn't matter what it is. What matters is what it will become." - Dr. Seuss

If you are interested in learning more about Assistance League of Long Beach's Endowment Program or Legacy Society membership, please contact Annette Kashiwabara, Executive Director, at (562) 627-5650.