

Inspire

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012



**DeLight
Breidegam Jr.**
Supporting research and
education in neurology

A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™





Advancing Neurology

Helen and DeLight Breidegam Jr. establish endowed chair

Timothy Breidegam had a bright future ahead of him. As a senior accounting major at Moravian College, Tim led many clubs, teams and organizations. He also donated his time and talents teaching English to Spanish-speaking residents in Allentown.

Unfortunately, during his last semester in college, Tim tragically passed away at age 21 in January 1978. His loss was felt by many. “He was a great kid,” says his mother, Helen Breidegam. “He was so kind and loving.”

Tim inherited his generosity from his parents, Helen and DeLight Breidegam Jr. To honor their son’s memory, the couple established the Timothy M. Breidegam Endowed Chair in Neurology at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

It’s rare for community hospitals to have endowed chairs. With the Breidegams’ gift, our health network now has 13. Interest generated from the Timothy M. Breidegam Endowed Chair in Neurology will support research and education in neurology, which in turn will help our health network continue to attract and retain the best neurologists.

The Breidegams felt their gift was a way to support the health network’s high-quality care. “There isn’t any place in the area that offers care as good or as thorough as Lehigh Valley Health Network,” says DeLight, who received stroke care here.

The couple’s gift is the latest in their history of giving back to the community. “We’ve been very fortunate in our lives to be able to help others,” Helen says. In 1946, DeLight and his father founded East Penn Manufacturing Company, the world’s largest independent battery manufacturer and producer of Deka batteries. East Penn is the largest employer in Berks County and consistently ranks as one of the Best Places to Work in the state.

The company has remained a family business—son Daniel Breidegam serves as vice president of metals, and daughter Sally Miksiewicz is the chief executive officer.

Although Tim never got the chance to build a career in the family business, his parents know his memory will live on with the endowed chair. “I think Tim would be happy with what we’re doing,” DeLight says.

GIVING BACK—Helen and DeLight Breidegam Jr. celebrated the establishment of the Timothy M. Breidegam Endowed Chair in Neurology with John Castaldo, MD, chief of neurology at Lehigh Valley Health Network. Castaldo will serve as the endowed chair holder.
