

## Central Ohio Artist Remembered at Mount Carmel through Generous Charitable Gift

*Foundation receives \$20,000 gift, art, in memory of Bevlyn Simson*

The memory of Bevlyn Simson, wife, mother and accomplished central Ohio artist, will live on for many years at Mount Carmel through the generosity of her family.

At age 91, Simson entered Mount Carmel East's Palliative Care unit last September. Her nine-day stay included several days as an inpatient Hospice patient. During that time, Simson's daughter, Sherran Blair, presented a \$20,000 Memorial gift to the Mount Carmel Foundation in honor of her mother with the contribution designated to further educate Mount Carmel's Hospice & Palliative Care staff.

"We gave the gift because of the expertise of the hospice and palliative care staff, who were so knowledgeable," Blair said. "They were always concerned about my mother and very upfront with everything in telling us what may or may not happen. They were never intrusive and never objected to any visiting family members, even if it was 2 a.m."

"It was an open situation where all were welcome."

In addition to the \$20,000 gift, Blair also donated two pieces of Simson's artwork to be displayed in the Palliative Care unit at Mount Carmel East. The first--a painting of butterflies--matches the theme and décor of the Palliative Care unit (shown in photo). The second, titled "A Sweet Smell of Roses" (shown below), will be hung in the office of Dr. Kavitha Norton, Simson's physician.

"Dr. Norton was wonderful. She spent so much time with us and never made it feel like she needed to be seventeen other places," Blair said. "She was always present. You wouldn't think a doctor would want to spend so much time with the family but she did."

"We decided that making the gift to the Foundation while my mother was still alive would help the gift go much further," Blair said. "You have to be prepared to act and know what the will says, and know that your loved one isn't going to need further years of care."

"But exercising Power of Attorney for a loved one in terms of charitable giving while the person is still alive makes the gift go so much further."

Simson's interest and talent in art spanned her entire life, beginning in 1935 when she started her college career at Ohio State University. After three years, Simson left OSU to raise her family, but returned in 1960 to earn a Bachelor and Masters Degree in fine arts. Her artwork, exhibited throughout central Ohio and many other parts of the United States, is currently displayed at the Bevlyn A. Simson Gallery, situated in the family-owned First Community Bank Building at 4300 E. Broad St. in Whitehall.

Simson and her late husband Ted had deep ties with the central Ohio and Mount Carmel communities. In the years before Ted's death, he contributed VHS and DVD players for every single patient room in the Oncology & Palliative Care unit at Mount Carmel West.

Simson herself served as a Mount Carmel volunteer. Her father used to sell and deliver fresh produce to Mount Carmel West.

As owners of the First Community Bank, the Simson family represents the oldest active banking family in central Ohio. Daughter Blair serves as bank president and son, Douglas, as president of First City Bank.

Family members take pride in their rich history of community involvement and are exemplary in their support of their Temple, Temple Israel, local schools and universities, arts organizations and local hospitals.

For more information about planned and estate giving, please visit [www.mountcarmelfoundation.org/plannedgiving](http://www.mountcarmelfoundation.org/plannedgiving).