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## Giving With Heart

*Carrying on a Legacy of Cardiovascular Research*

By: Melanie Grayce West – August 14, 2013

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Dan Adams and Gayllis Ward are carrying on a \$40 million legacy for a family they never knew.

Mr. Adams and Ms. Ward are trustees for the Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation, which is dedicated to cardiovascular research. How they became the caretakers for a huge fortune—not to mention the most generous donors to the American Heart Association ever—is uncommon, as is their dedication to preserving the Bugher legacy, which includes a new multiyear grant of \$9.65 million to the Dallas-based American Heart Association's stroke association. Grants will be awarded later this year.

Carrying on the Bugher family legacy is "a blessing and a wonderful opportunity," says Mr. Adams, 73 years old, who runs his own brand consulting company.

Frederick Bugher Sr. was a former police commissioner of New York City and his wife, Henrietta, was a member of a noteworthy family, according to foundation documents. Their fortune came from family, real-estate interests and mining. They had two sons, Harry and Fred.

Before her death, Mrs. Bugher visited her distant cousin, John W. Davis, a partner of New York-based law firm now known as Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, to discuss her assets and legacy. Mr. Davis handed Mrs. Bugher off to attorney Nelson Adams, who helped her develop a plan for her family's fortune and for her remaining son and heir, Fred. Mr. and Mrs. Bugher both died of heart disease.

In 1961 and with help from Mr. Adams, the younger Fred Bugher created a foundation to honor his parents (and protect his assets). Upon his death, also from heart disease, the foundation received most of his assets and Mr. Adams and two others were left to care for the foundation.

Mr. Adams soon added Robert Robinson to the foundation's board. In later years, Mr. Adams added his son, Dan, to the board and Mr. Robinson added his daughter, Gayllis. The younger Mr. Adams has also added sons Bruce and Bryan Adams to the board. All live in the greater New York area, meet occasionally and work to keep the foundation "nimble" and "lean," says Ms. Ward, 62, an attorney and accountant who works for the Cato Institute.

"We try to use the money well, there's a strong sense of that," said Ms. Ward. "To use it very, very well and very, very effectively with a minimalist structure and I think we've been successful in doing that."

The trustees of the Bugher Foundation don't have a personal connection to heart disease, but they are committed to funding research that is both "seminal and which would otherwise have difficulty getting funded," says Mr. Adams. The newest grant to the American Heart Association

will provide funding to three collaborative research centers focused on stroke research, particularly the fields of repair, regeneration and rehabilitation of stroke patients.

Mr. Adams and Ms. Ward say that they feel a responsibility to the younger Mr. Bugher as well. "To give him the due that we can for having the foresight and sense of generosity to set this fund up," says Mr. Adams. Honoring the late Mr. Bugher has probably been the most difficult job for the Bugher Foundation trustees.

"I went down to the Library of Congress and spent, pretty much, a whole day there and hauled out all the Bugher files," recalls Mr. Adams of his search for photos and records of the younger Mr. Bugher. "There's nothing there. We found absolutely nothing."