

Lila

LEGACYSOCIETY



In 1969, Lila Bjorklund was touched by the plight of troubled girls. There were programs for troubled boys but girls who were struggling with the abuse, neglect and mental illness were either placed in inadequate foster homes or detention. The girls were being lost, and the community had no path to save them.

Lila changed that.

With donated land, materials and labor, Lila and her friends marshaled the resources to build Utah's first group home for troubled teenage girls. The program was called Utah Girls Village. As Utah Girls Village grew to include boys, the name was changed to Utah Youth Village.

Lila was an inspired founder—a true social entrepreneur. She led with love. She believed, “the gift that makes dreams come true is so simple. It is love—plain, simple, warm love.” Armed with that love, Lila worked

- without compensation
- for forty-plus hours a week
- for twenty-five years.

Recognition of her extraordinary contribution to the community are too numerous to mention, but they include an honorary degree from Brigham Young University, recognition from the Points of Light Foundation, and Woman of the Year Award from the Governor's Commission on Women and Children.

Her legacy of unflinching advocacy for children remains in the happy, productive lives of all Village children.

Your planned gift automatically entitles you to membership in the Lila Legacy Society, an elite group of donors with the loving heart and a commitment to effect positive change. Like Lila, they share the vision of caring for the most vulnerable children in their community.

Lila Legacy Society members enjoy a private evening once a year to learn about the children they are helping to heal. It's a warm and uplifting event.

They are also listed separately in the Village's annual report and their name is displayed on a beautiful plaque in the foyer of the Village's office building in Holladay, Utah.

To learn more about the Lila Legacy Society, please contact Rebecca Heal at 801-308-1053 or rheal@youthvillage.org.

