John & Eve Adams Receive Distinguished Service Award

A life-changing event forever shaped John and Eve Adams. On October 31, 1973, a lightning strike caused a fire that burned their Bentonville, Arkansas, home to the ground. Thankfully, the couple and their five small children escaped without harm, but they lost everything except the clothes they were wearing. They soon learned their mortgage lender had failed to send their paid insurance premiums to the insurance company, leaving their home uninsured. John had just $5 in his pocket at the time.

Soon friends and neighbors showed up with tools and building materials in hand, ready to help rebuild the Adams’ home. Two months later, the family moved in. John and Eve never forgot the kindness and generosity they received at a time when they needed it most.

Years later, when the couple relocated from Bentonville to Southwest City, Missouri, they immediately immersed themselves in the community.

Though John and Eve have lived in the area only nine years, they have contributed more to the community and Crowder College than most people do in a lifetime.

Eve has served eight years on the Crowder College Foundation Board of Directors and as fundraising chairperson for most of that time. She has also served as Vice President of the Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation has executed new fundraising events, including Evening of Jazz in 2010 and Tour de Cass in 2015. Additionally, Festival of Wreaths, now in its 14th year, has grown exponentially with Eve’s guidance, doubling in revenue and drawing a full house of more than 400 guests in recent years.

"John and Eve work tirelessly year-round to secure high-end auction items for Festival of Wreaths from pool tables and fishing excursions to snow blowers and cattle," said Cindy Branscum, Crowder College Director of Institutional Advancement. "The time and resources they so selflessly devote to Festival of Wreaths has undoubtedly transformed the once small wreath auction into the area’s premier fundraising event. Eve’s infectious enthusiasm as fundraising chair inspires others to step up to the plate and follow suit."

The Adams have always felt passionately about supporting education and believe it improves lives by opening doors and providing greater opportunities for not only students, but for the community as a whole. Their own children struggled to receive any type of financial aid for college. They fell through the cracks. Years later, when the capital campaign began to build James B. Tatum Hall at the Crowder College McDonald County Campus, John and Eve were quick to pledge their support with a generous gift to sponsor the student commons area.

“We support Crowder College because it’s about the kids—the future. When you talk with scholarship recipients, you hear such personal stories about how your support has changed their lives,” said Eve. “You get to see the results of your work and the results are lifelong and meaningful. When you give to the college, you don’t just feed students for the day, you teach them to fish for themselves. You create a generation of changers.”

John and Eve have made an immeasurable difference for Crowder College. They exemplify servant leadership in the truest sense and their generosity will benefit countless students for years to come. It is with deep gratitude that Crowder College Foundation presents them with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award.