THE LEACH FOUNDATION

How we received funds:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Leach created The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. a private foundation, in 1955. This family entity was formed to be the receptacle of their estates generated by a lifetime of determination and dedication to their work.

How Funds are put to use:

General policy of the Leach foundation is to make contributions to organizations which are charitable, religious, scientific, and educational by definition of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). As stated in the Purpose and Policy Statement of the Founders.

The bottom line:

The grant process follows the guidelines set forth by Mr. and Mrs. Leach and supports endeavors to include arts and humanities, education, human services, medical sciences and health, as well as social sciences. Since inception in 1955 the gifting of the Leach foundation has exceeded thirteen million dollars.

Since Mrs. Leach’s death in 1981, the Board of Directors has gifted in the following areas:

- Arts & Humanities: 14%
- Educational: 42%
- Human Services: 32%
- Medical Science & Health: 9%
- Other Social Sciences: 3%

Distribution of Funds 1981-2018

- Health & Medical Services: 9%
- Other: 3%
- Arts & Humanities: 14%
- Human Social Services: 32%
- Education: 42%

2018-2019 Directors and Officers

THE TOM AND FRANCES LEACH FOUNDATION, INC.

- President: Bill L. Daniel
- Vice President: Todd J. Steinwand
- Secretary/Treasurer: John T. Roswick
- Board of Directors: Thomas W. Leach, Frances V. Leach, Norman Hulings, Evan Saltzman, Jonathan Eaton, Jr., Jack C. Bone, Lloyd Sveen, Gilbert Olson, Clement Weber

OFFICERS:

- President: Bill L. Daniel
- Vice President: Todd J. Steinwand
- Secretary/Treasurer: John T. Roswick

FORMER DIRECTORS:

- Thomas W. Leach
- Frances V. Leach
- Clifford Jansonsius
- Euan Saltzman
- Ernest Fleck
- Jonathan Eaton, Jr.
- Cooper Land
- Jack C. Bone
- Julie Blakely
- Lloyd Sveen
- Robert Hendrickson
- Gilbert Olson
- Russell R. Mather
- James Wachter
- David L. Goodin
- Frank J. Bavendick

PURPOSE AND POLICY STATEMENT OF THE TOM AND FRANCES LEACH FOUNDATION, INC.

“The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. is a private foundation, created in 1955 by Thomas Witt and Frances Van Valkenburgh (Land) Leach, former owners of North American Royalties, Inc. a public corporation listed on the American Stock Exchange. During Mr. and Mrs. Leach’s lifetime, this public corporation was formed to be the receptacle of their investment assets, and to carry on the business of oil and gas property investments for the development and production in the Williston Basin area.

After the death of her husband in 1966, Mrs. Leach recognized that the potential growth could go beyond the scope of a traditional family foundation. Therefore she felt a need to leave guidelines for future directors of The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. in the administration of the original and subsequent resources of the Leach Foundation.

In establishing The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. it was sought to create an institution that would “promote the public welfare” with private means. How that general mission should be accomplished is left to the discretion of the Foundation’s Board of Directors who are to follow the guidelines thus established by Mrs. Leach.

Mrs. Leach formulated specific policies in the years following Mr. Leach’s death; and henceforth the Board of Directors is to focus the Foundation’s grant making in a rigorous manner by supporting endeavors in a spectrum of fields to include the arts and humanities, education, human services, medical sciences and health and social sciences. However, support is to be limited to organizations qualified as charitable under applicable laws, rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Code for 501(c)(3).

Honoring the Foundation’s regional commitment and acknowledging the source of the original asset accumulation, it was determined that giving should be limited to Mid-Central America, with emphasis that this be the geographical area served.

Following the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Leach, The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. through its Board of Directors, acknowledge the asset gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Leach’s estates, and uphold the policy of continuing their various interests into succeeding generations by carrying out the philanthropic purposes mentioned hereinabove.”

The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc.

A private, non-profit, charitable organization to promote the public welfare with private resources in accordance with the Purpose and Policy Statement of The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc.

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world War II postponed the oil exploration and development in North Dakota. Tom Leach was again stationed in San Diego, California and he served as a captain from 1943-44. He was assigned to anti-aircraft duty with the U.S. Army Artillery Corps.

After the war, Leach and Fruh resumed their leasing of oil rights from landowners. Leach invested in a variety of other business ventures, but his dream of oil in the Williston Basin was alive and well and in 1950 he convinced Amerada Oil that the Nesson Anticline was the place to drill for oil. Leach was hired by Amerada to lease the most likely spots. It was Amerada Oil that brought in the now famous Clarence Iverson "Black Gold" oil well in 1951. The lease offered 325,000 common shares to the public at $6.10 per share, the first public stock offering of its kind in the industry.

To consolidate the various holdings Mr. Leach founded North American Royalties, Inc in Bismarck with John M. Kelsch in 1952. This change shifted the energies and emphasis from leasing to trading royalties. The firm offered 325,000 common shares to the public at $6.10 per share, the first nationwide distribution of land speculation stock in the Williston Basin. Mr. Leach was the President, Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of this enterprise until his death in 1966.

While walking to his Bismarck office Mr. Leach was stricken with a heart attack and died September 7, 1966. Many newspaper editors and journalists in the state hailed him as the "Father of North Dakota Oil". His importance to the economic development of North Dakota is now legendary. While other geologists believed there was oil in the Williston Basin area, it was Thomas W. Leach who was the most persistent. He broadened the search many people influential in the oil industry nationwide. It was his reputation that generated the interest of the big oil companies and his determination which provided the impetus for oil development in the state of North Dakota. He was survived then by his wife Frances and his mother, and several nieces and nephews.

Frances Van Valkenburgh (Land) Leach 1902-1981

"The things you share and give away, give you the greatest pleasure." This quote by Frances V. Leach most certainly describes her philosophy of life. From her earliest family experiences to the creation of The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation with her husband, she gave generously of herself and resources.

Born Frances Van Valkenburgh Land on June 28, 1902 she was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Levin K. Land. Her early education was in Pine bluff, Arkansas where her father practiced dentistry. After graduating from Millerberg College in Kentucky and the Emerson School of Drama in Boston, she taught one year in her home town. It was there that her friendship with Thomas W. Leach blossomed into romance. They married October 28, 1925, when she was a reporter for the St. Louis Times.

From that point forward her life was entwined with that of her husband's. He considered her his partner in all his business ventures and named her as a director in four of them. Even after his death in 1966, she was elected President of North American Royalties, Inc. the family's major enterprise which was listed on the American Stock Exchange.

Shortly after their marriage, Tom and Frances moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Frances' interest in young people started early in her life, and her support grew through the years for many social causes as well. She presented a series of lectures on social etiquette at a private school in Tulsa, a service she later directed. After World War II, Frances was a founding member of the Salvation Army's Women Auxiliary and Planned Parenthood. She researched the conditions of the mentally ill in the Tulsa jail and helped establish a hospital treatment plan for those people. In 1947 she was the first president of the Oklahoma Committee for Mental Health.

After commuting for many years between Bismarck and Tulsa, Tom and Frances purchased a Hereford ranch near Towner, ND. Both had always wanted a ranch of their own and found exactly what they wanted in 1953. The ranch enabled them to pursue their hobbies and provided entertainment and relaxation as they called the Leach Ranch their permanent home.

Soon after moving to Bismarck in 1953, Mrs. Leach met Sidney J. Leach, Dean of Bismarck Junior College. He asked her to consider giving "Social Training" classes at the college. In 1966, Frances wrote, "I have completed my tenth year at BJC and was elected President of North Dakota. At the time this organization was attempting to establish a spouse abuse program for which money was almost non-existent. She personally financed the cost of getting such a program underway not only in Bismarck, but in Minot, Fargo, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Finding herself a widow in 1966 Frances filled the void and her husband's absence by continuing her work and philanthropy through educational scholarships, the arts, health and human services. She served as President of The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation, Inc. until her death on October 2, 1984. Family survivors at that time were a brother and a nephew.

Both Tom and Frances were continually interested in helping others. The Tom and Frances Leach Foundation was established in Bismarck as a private foundation in 1955. The foundation was chartered as a 501(c)(3) and continues today to provide funds to assist other non-profit organizations with a cumulative total exceeding $18,000,000, given to these groups since inception.