

Betty Robinson, MSSW ('90), Honored with Endowment

In December 2004, Betty Robinson received a birthday present that will truly stand the test of time. To her surprise, her son Charles pledged \$25,000 to the College of Social Work to create an endowment in her name. When fully funded, the Betty M. Robinson Fellowship Endowment will provide an annual stipend for a graduate student in the master's program.

"When your child does something like that, you're always overwhelmed with emotions," Robinson said. "It was a great surprise. I feel honored that my son would establish an endowment in my name, and it thrills me to think that students will be the recipients."

The gift was especially appropriate given Robinson's long history of involvement in the social work profession. She received her Master's Degree in social work from UT, and she has years of experience working as a LCSW in both family- and child-practice. In addition, she serves as chair of the Board of Visitors for the College.

A year and a half ago, Robinson began work as a part-time practitioner

focusing on "explosive"—that is, easily frustrated and chronically inflexible—children and adolescents. This area of work is very near to her heart. She explains: "I wanted to end my career



Dean Sowers (bottom left) and Andy Dunsmore (top left) celebrate with Charles and Kelly Robinson (middle back row and right front row, respectively) and Betty and Jim Robinson.

working with children, because that's the greatest need in our society. We need to get back to the source of our problems, and that means making a positive

change in children's lives."

Reflecting on his gift, Charles said, "I wanted to honor my mother and all that she's achieved, and I wanted to give a gift that would be there for a long time. The gift expresses my belief in what the social work graduates are doing and how important their work is."

Robinson's impact on the college has been felt for many years. "Betty has served on the college advisory committee. More recently, she has chaired the College Board of Visitors and has provided wonderful leadership and direction for the board," says Dean Sowers. She adds, "This scholarship is a wonderful tribute in honor of her commitment to the profession and to the College. Because of this scholarship, Betty's name will be linked with the College forever, and she will be supporting our students and new professionals in perpetuity. The College is blessed to have the Robinsons, and I am personally grateful for all of their support."

—Josh Reynolds

Named Giving Opportunities at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work

Endowments are permanent funds generated through donations of money or property that are held in perpetuity. Endowments support only the area for which they are designated. Increasing endowment funds within the College of Social Work builds lasting financial strength and ensures academic quality. Once established, a balanced endowment portfolio provides ongoing support for a wide variety of important endeavors. Teaching and research, student scholarship assistance, academic programs, and other institutional activities can all be positively sustained through a healthy endowment program.

The University of Tennessee provides a very unique and satisfying avenue for giving through named endowments. Based upon a pre-established scale of giving, donors can choose to permanently link their names or the name of someone they wish to honor with a particular institutional designation. The levels of named endowment opportunities are:

Naming of College, School, Department, or Center.....	Requires consultation with development office. May require Board of Trustee approval.
Named Endowed Chair.....	\$2,000,000
Named Distinguished Professorship.....	\$1,000,000
Named Professorship.....	\$500,000
Named Faculty Fellowship.....	\$250,000
Named Faculty Award.....	\$100,000
Named Scholarship or Graduate Fellowship.....	Minimum of \$25,000
Other named endowed fund.....	Minimum of \$25,000