Theresa and Eugene M. Lang
Center for Research and Education

Benefactors Theresa and Eugene Lang

Theresa Lang

Theresa Lang was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Jamaica, attending Jamaica High School and Marymount Manhattan College. She began her hospital service as a volunteer nurse's aide during World War II, which was the beginning of a lifelong commitment to health care and related community service. Beginning in 1958, she made dedicated service to New York Hospital Queens the focus of that commitment.

Mrs. Lang began her distinguished association with NYHQ as a volunteer in 1958, one year after it was founded as Booth Memorial Medical Center. She was a charter member of the Women's Auxiliary and chaired a number of its committees. Elected President of the Auxiliary in 1964, she significantly broadened its program of community action and its role as a primary health care resource.

Mrs. Lang was a member of the hospital's Board of Trustees for 35 years, enriching its function with her years of hands-on experience with hospital and health care matters. She chaired the board's Professional and Quality Control committees and participated actively in almost every major hospital development initiative.

In 1981, Mrs. Lang extended the quality and scope of the medical center's services to the Queens community when she and her husband, Eugene, provided a major challenge gift to build the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Community Health Education Center.

New York Hospital Queens

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In 1996, a generous gift from Mrs. Lang and her husband made possible a new building for children's outpatient care, replacing its former quarters, a trailer. Today, the Theresa Lang Children's Ambulatory Center provides complete medical care from birth through age 18 for more than 16,000 children each year.

In 1998, the Langs made an additional gift to expand the Lang Research Center and to provide the infrastructure for a formal program of research, the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Center for Research and Education. In 2007, the Langs provided the medical center with its first chair by endowing the Theresa Lang Directorship of the Lang Research Center.

In 1996, the medical center thanked Mrs. Lang with the Pacesetter Award, its highest honor.

Among her many other distinguished activities; Mrs. Lang served as a trustee of Hunter College and of the New York City Opera. She was also a trustee of Rockefeller University for 10 years and chaired the board's Hospital Committee. Her name graces the Chair in Clinical Medicine at Rockefeller.

Mrs. Lang passed away in 2008, and is greatly missed by the entire New York Hospital Queens community.

Eugene M. Lang

Eugene Lang grew up in New York City during the Great Depression. A 1938 graduate of Swarthmore College, he earned an M.S. degree from the Columbia Graduate School of Business and studied mechanical engineering at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. He is a member of the Century Club and the Yale Club.

In a business career that spanned more than 60 years, Mr. Lang created a succession of diverse manufacturing ventures in the U.S. and abroad based on new products and innovative technologies. He became internationally recognized for pioneering licensing and technology transfer as a practical means for small American manufacturers to establish their business potential in overseas markets. Forbes Magazine characterized him as "the quintessential entrepreneur," and Nation's Business as "a father of innovation."

As an expert in entrepreneurial ventures and small business development, Mr. Lang was a champion of small business interests, for which he received the Government's "E" Award from President Kennedy. He served with distinction on various U.S. Government commissions and represented the United States as a member of seven overseas economic and investment missions of the Commerce and State departments.

Since establishing the Eugene M. Lang Foundation in 1963, Mr. Lang has increasingly directed his time and talents toward philanthropy.

New York Hospital Queens

Among his most recognized contributions, he established the “I Have a Dream” Foundation in 1981, and now serves as Chairman Emeritus. This nationwide enterprise provides sustained personalized guidance and support to disadvantaged children during their K-12 years, plus an assured opportunity to attend college. Likewise, his “Building Wellness” Program, established in 2005 in New York City, effectively addresses the health and well-being of underprivileged children and is being gradually replicated across the country.

Mr. Lang has created a variety of innovative scholarships, academic and social performance incentives, fellowships and chairs at many colleges. He has supported and endowed numerous internships, as well as research and socially oriented projects, for both students and faculty.

Mr. Lang is Chairman Emeritus of Swarthmore College and founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Conference of Board Chairmen of Liberal Arts Colleges. He has served as a board member of the Columbia Business School, where he established the Eugene M. Lang Center for Entrepreneurship; the Carnegie-Mellon Graduate School of Management; the New School University, whose undergraduate liberal arts college bears his name; and the Individual Investors Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange.

For Mr. Lang’s services to education, President George H. W. Bush designated him a “Point of Light” and President Bill Clinton presented him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this country’s highest civilian award.