

## Dear Friend,

The loss of a loved one or good friend is never easy. Yet in three short months, we experienced the loss of three amazing women who were a big part of our Iowa CareGivers family: Jane Pinkerton Bell, Marian B. Lyddon, and Charlotte B. Nelson. We extend our condolences to their families and everyone who knew and loved them and honor their memories.



*"On Sept. 2, our mother Jane Pinkerton Bell passed away two months shy of her 83rd birthday after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. During her lifetime, Mother accomplished many things: earning two master's degrees and rearing two daughters, as well as a career leading to owning her own business. Mother also found her work with and contributions to charitable organizations very rewarding. One of her favorites - Iowa Caregivers. In Mother's last months, she was aided by many direct care workers—CNAs, RNs, assisted living workers, hospice nurses, aides, and volunteers. More than ever, it was during this time that my sister Julie and I realized just how important and special these individuals are. It led us to ask that people give to Iowa CareGivers in Mother's memory. We knew this would please her."*

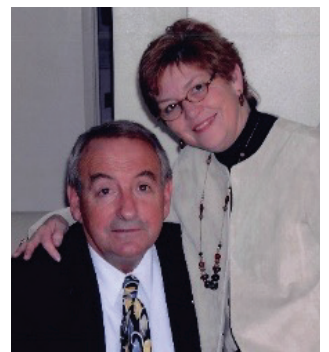
*-Liz Lefflow*



**Jane Pinkerton Bell**

*"Well over 25 years ago, Linda Simonton, then with the Iowa Health System, introduced me to Di Findley, who was creating a new organization: Iowa CareGivers. The system was increasing its work in home healthcare, so after some months of getting acquainted, the Iowa Health Foundation assisted Iowa CareGivers by providing office space. At that time, I knew little about the scope of work provided by these folks, but I was to become educated. I confess it took me years to fully appreciate their devotion and care. My lesson in caregivers' understanding came this August. After two years, my wife of 60 years passed away in the care center at Presbyterian Senior Home in Clive. She suffered neurologically and was unable to walk, talk, and much more. We spent our time holding hands several times a day and, on this day, I left her for a meeting. A nurse called me about an hour later and asked me to come as soon as possible. Yes, Marian had passed, and a most thoughtful, loving process was underway: A dozen or more of Marian's caregivers returned to the care center to participate in a staff-led remembrance service, with each staff person reflecting on their love and feelings for Marian. They hugged me, then left me for my time to lovingly say, 'see you later.'"*

*-Ivan Lyddon*



**Marian B. Lyddon**

## A Remembrance of Charlotte



**Charlotte B. Nelson**

"Our beloved mother, Charlotte B. Nelson, died in July 2023, 11 days after her 92nd birthday. Mom was kind, caring, and relentless in her pursuit of what is right and just. A "soft-spoken radical", her belief in the dignity and worth of every human being was evident from an early age. Mom served as the Executive Director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women for 22 years, where she represented and advocated for women and girls with legislators, government officials, and the people of Iowa. After retirement, she continued this work by serving on various boards, including that of Iowa CareGivers. In the last years of her life, our mother was supported by her family, friends, and a team of direct care workers. Mom's independence was very important to her, and the dedicated care of these professionals made it possible for her to stay in her apartment and live her

life to the fullest. It is in recognition of these special people and in honor of our Mother's advocacy and work on their behalf that we directed memorial contributions to Iowa CareGivers. —*Ruth*

"Charlotte came over one evening for dinner, wine, and a tour of our garden. She kept talking about a homeless man living in her basement. She explained that the man was a friend of Tom, her son who had been living with her for a long time. When we asked how long the homeless man had been living in her basement, she said for almost two years. We told her that he was not homeless, his home was in her basement. She just laughed and asked for another glass of wine."

—*Scott Hartsook, a good friend*

Coretta Scott King once wrote, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

**We at Iowa CareGivers are grateful to Charlotte, Marian, Jane, and their families for directing memorials to Iowa CareGivers. Please consider a gift of your own to Iowa CareGivers in memory of a loved one—or to honor the actions of a particular caregiver who touched your life.**

**P.S. You may make your gift in memory of your loved one or to honor a direct care worker using the enclosed donation card, or online at <https://bit.ly/3Q8uKOe>**

**In gratitude,**

**Di Findley**, Executive Director  
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## Announcing the **CHARLOTTE B. NELSON** DIRECT CARE ADVOCACY FUND

"Given my various experiences, I am committed to promoting the work of Iowa CareGivers. These direct care workers are invaluable in our society. They deserve higher wages, better working conditions, respect, and opportunities for advancement. I have advocated addressing the issue of compensation for DCWs ever since I retired from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and began serving on the Iowa CareGivers Board of Directors. We have administered programs and activities for DCWs and raised awareness—caregivers are overworked and underpaid even as the need is increasing dramatically."

—*Charlotte B. Nelson*

**The goal of the Charlotte B. Nelson Direct Care Advocacy Fund is to promote providing direct care workers (DCWs) a wage consistent with the importance of the care and support they provide for Iowans of all ages and abilities through:**

- Conducting, promoting, and supporting Iowa and DCW-specific wage data research that represents the voices of DCWs and includes a comprehensive analysis to identify critical issues related to current and future DCW wages.
- Working with DCWs along with health, long-term care, and home and community-based service employers; fellow advocates; educators; family caregivers; consumers; and the business community to increase awareness about the impact of wages on direct workforce shortages and access to needed services, including the drain on Iowa's rural and urban economies due to the lack of current and future available direct care.
- Using data and analyses to advance policies and strategies to raise DCW wages over the next five years and reduce their reliance on worker supports such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, childcare, and housing subsidies, and working two jobs to make ends meet.

**IOWA CareGivers**  
*The go-to place for those in direct care*

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