

The Clark's Commitment to Education

The \$200,000 contribution Frank and Vera Clark are making to the newly founded Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy, operated by the Noble Network of Charter Schools, reflects the Clark family's abiding commitment to education, youth development and service to Chicago's African-American and Latino communities.

Horace Mann, known as the "Father of American Education," once said, "Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of man..." Mr. Clark has lived by that credo and the words of his mother, who inspired him and his seven siblings to use education to fulfill their ambitions. Vera Clark is an educator, having served more than 28 years with the Chicago Public Schools. The Clarks met in elementary school. Mr. Clark attended Hirsch High School, while Dr. Clark attended St. Elizabeth High School.

After serving in the U.S. Army, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, Mr. Clark returned to civilian life inspired to pursue higher education. Attending night school, Clark earned his Bachelor's and law degrees from DePaul University. Dr. Vera Clark has received a Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees and a Doctorate – all in education.

Though retired from the Chicago Public Schools, Dr. Clark currently teaches at Chicago State University and remains dedicated to helping youth and promoting the charter school educational model. She is a member of the board of directors of Chicago's Perspectives Charter School, the ETA Creative Arts Foundation and the Adler Planetarium's Women's Board. The Clarks provide guidance and resources to a variety of organizations committed to enriching the cultural and social life of underserved Chicago communities.

Mr. Clark fulfills extensive commitments to causes that matter to him, as:

- Chairman of the board of trustees of Metropolitan Family Services,
- Chairman of the board of trustees of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum,
- Chair of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's 2006 annual campaign,
- A leader of the African-American Legacy Fund, a \$6 million endowment in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust to broaden education, the arts and community development,
- Co-chairman of the DuSable Capital Campaign, a \$24 million initiative to expand the DuSable Museum of African-American History; and,
- Chair of DePaul University's Excellence in Science Capital Campaign.

Frank and Vera Clark recognize the importance of a quality education, and believe financial considerations should not limit a young person's access to Chicago's broad educational and cultural opportunities.

They expect their contribution to the Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy will yield an enriching educational experience for generations of students.