

# A LEGACY OF *Love*

## *Memorial Endowment Honors Horticulturist Donald E. Johnson*

Former founders, owners and operators of Johnson's Nursery in Sioux Falls, Don Johnson and his wife Dorothy were profoundly committed to their business and their community.

After spending a lifetime building a successful business together, Don and Dorothy knew what it meant to work hard. They also knew, through personal experience how difficult it was to find the money to attain a degree. According to Dorothy, "Don and I liked to see everyone have an education. I think it's because we had trouble getting financial aid for our education. We really had to work hard, and we just would like to help others."

Sadly, Don passed away on March 13, 2007, but not before he asked Dorothy to make a significant contribution to Southeast Technical Institute. "Don thought Southeast was a wonderful school. He didn't believe that everyone had to attend a four-year college because he really felt that they could start a profession in a year's time or two with the right education," smiles Dorothy.

Don and Dorothy had the opportunity to experience the ability of Southeast students first hand. "I think the students in technical education are very focused and hard working. I know because we had them working for us at our nursery. We liked the students very much and they all came to learn. It was part of their learning process in school and that impressed both Don and I very much."

*"I think there are many business owners or retirees like Don and I that have the ability to do this. I would certainly encourage others to think about investing in the future as we are. You think of how much you're helping other people and our gift will go on and on. It makes me feel so good to know we are helping someone attain their degree."*

*- Dorothy L. Johnson*

To honor Don's commitment to his profession, education and Southeast, Dorothy chose to endow a generous donation to the Southeast Technical Institute Foundation. The money will be used to assist horticulture students in the form of scholarships awarded annually. Dorothy notes, "Don would be very happy to know I did



Located on east 10th Street in Sioux Falls next to Boom's Funeral Home, Johnson Nursery opened for business in 1949 and was eventually sold in 1988 when the Johnsons retired.

"The Donald E. and Dorothy L. Johnson Endowment is a lasting testament to the lives of two caring, hard-working people who formed a wonderful team through their long-standing marriage and successful nursery business in Sioux Falls.

We're honored that Dorothy (and Donald) Johnson made this investment with the STI Foundation to establish an endowment which will change students' lives forever and help STI build a solid foundation for tomorrow's workforce."

*- Mary Freiborg,  
Institutional Advancement Officer*

\* For more information on endowments at Southeast Tech, call 605.367.7464

this. He never wanted to take credit for anything. I can just see him smile. It makes me feel very happy to think that I can do this for him, to give him the recognition that he deserves." ❧