

STEVEN BLOCH

THE FOUNDATION'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Steve began serving on The Foundation board in the 1996-1997 fiscal year – that's 28 years of service and counting! Steve served as President of The Foundation from 2003 to 2009, overseeing the distribution of over \$36 million, primarily within the Omaha Jewish community. Despite a significant market downturn, measurable increases in investment assets were achieved during his tenure. Marty Ricks, Foundation Executive Director during Steve's term, praised him for his dedication and meaningful seven years as president. According to Marty, "Steve ran highly efficient, effective, and informative board meetings and actively contributed to the design and closing of major gifts."

During his first two years as board President, Steve was instrumental in establishing The Foundation as a separate supporting foundation entity benefitting the Jewish Federation of Omaha, where formally it had been merely a committee of the Federation. This was a prudent change which separated the investment assets of The Foundation from its operating assets, necessary by the realities of our litigious times.

Fortunately, Steve continues to serve on The Foundation board, sharing his vast knowledge and experience. In a tribute from the May 2009 *Jewish Press*, his presidency was described as marking "The end of an era," highlighting his efforts to secure financial resources for the growth of Omaha's Jewish community. Recognized by many in the community, Steve's commitment to The Foundation's growth and asset security was commended by leaders such as Bob Lepp and Murray Newman.

At the conclusion of Steve's presidency, the board established the Steven Bloch President's Fund as an expression of appreciation for his service and a testament to the crucial role he played providing valuable legal counsel and contributing to major gifts. Steve continues to serve on the board, is a member of the Investment Committee and is involved in finalizing the Alan J. Levine estate gift, one of the largest single gifts to The Foundation. His vision, service, participation, and ongoing support are deeply appreciated.

We extend our gratitude to Steve for his continued dedication to The Foundation's mission.