

**Michael and Phi Andreas -
Engineer Bridges Personal Plans with Effective Way to Support Favorite Causes**

Michael and Phi Andreas moved to Farmington in 1976. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University). In connection with his service in the U.S Navy and employment by General Motors, they lived in several areas across the United States, his last assignment being at the Delco Moraine Division plant in Bristol, Conn. As a result of having moved so often, they welcomed planting roots for the long term and both were Connecticut natives.

They raised three daughters here and have been active in the community. Mike brought his engineering and leadership skills to his role as councilman and as chairman of the Farmington Town Council from 1980 through 1981.

He went on to serve as a member, and then chairman, of the Library Committee. This involvement led to his becoming president and later chairman of the Farmington Village Green and Library Association—the FVGLA. The FVGLA owns, operates and provides funding for Farmington’s Main Library, the Barney Library branch, the Stanley Whitman House museum, Memento Mori Cemetery and the Farmington Village Green.

When approached to donate to the main library’s expansion, Mike and Phi knew that using appreciated securities made the most sense. They would have to pay considerable taxes on the capital gain if they sold the stock outright, and a big bite would be chewed out of the asset if left to their heirs.

“We didn’t come from auspicious backgrounds,” said Mike of his and Phi’s earlier years. “This was a way we could share what we’d been given.”

They have continued to share their good fortune and use good sense since the Farmington Library was completed in 2003. Recently, the couple used a portion of Mike’s IRA to fulfill their pledge to the Barney Library renovation campaign.

Mike had heard that there was a provision that exempts from taxable income funds “rolled over” from an IRA to a charitable organization. With the deadline for that provision set to expire a short time later, he decided to take advantage of the benefits while furthering the work he cared about.

“It made sense,” said Mike, “so I contacted my investment house who transferred the amount I owed on my campaign pledge.”

Mike and Phi were able to create a bridge between what they want for themselves and their family, and what they want to give back to their community. A design he considers perfect.