

Sharing His Good Fortune

CAPITAL GIFT

Anthony “Tony” Fusco is the very definition of a self-made man.

Born in Italy, he came to this country in 1932 as a two-year-old. “We were the last Italian family to come here before President Roosevelt halted immigration,” he says. “My family spoke only Italian, but with the help of a great teacher, I gradually learned English.”

“I left high school and enlisted in the Navy. Later I went to work at Bancroft & Sons Cotton Mills in Wilmington, Delaware, where my father Francesco was employed,” remembers Mr. Fusco. “I helped him run a luncheonette and water ice stand that he opened in Wilmington’s Little Italy to help support the family. Today, the water ice business is run by my grandson Joseph.”

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Mr. Fusco married his wife Catherine in 1953 and they had two daughters and a son. “I worked at many jobs to make ends meet,” he remembers. Later, he went into the floor covering business and eventually, commercial real estate.



Anthony Fusco, Sr., with his daughters Cheryl Staffieri (L), Josephine Vassallo and son Anthony Fusco, Jr. (R)

The state of Delaware wanted to buy his property to build a state route. With the \$248,000 realized from the deal, he invested in real estate and municipal bonds. Soon Mr. Fusco was building shopping centers throughout Wilmington. Today, Fusco Property Management and Fusco Enterprises are managed by his children, son-in-law and grandson.

Mr. Fusco established the Anthony N. and Catherine A. Fusco Foundation in honor of his late wife. “I know what it is to be in want and I was lucky enough to make some money,” he says, “Now I want to do something good for somebody—especially kids—and share my good

fortune with the people of Wilmington.” Mr. Fusco has made seven-figure gifts to several Catholic schools and a church, as well as the local art museum. Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children will receive a gift of five million dollars to name the five-story atrium of the hospital’s expansion building for him.

“It’s been a good life,” says Mr. Fusco. “I hustled and worked hard for the money I made and now I’m giving back. It’s satisfying to know that I’m leaving a legacy for others—something of which my grandchildren and great-grandchildren can be proud.”

To learn more about the Hospital’s expansion, visit Nemours.org.