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Remarks, delivered at the Enrichment Dinner on May 24, 2000

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Enrichment Dinner Remarks

May 24, 2000

There is a proverb that states “A man’s gift makes room for him” and I would add a woman’s gift makes room for her. What does the proverb mean? I suggest that giving makes you a player in a game. It’s like ante in poker, but there is no loser. From the moment the dollars are committed there is involvement, something begins to happen; a child is healed, a program is initiated, a building looms on the landscape. The gift of money moves toward a special interest in people, and the game of life moves happily forward. The donor has made room for himself or herself at the table where the game is played.

Tonight we celebrate what gifts have done for Grand Valley State University, you have given them, and you who have solicited them from others. The spotlight shines on three who have really been engaged lately. Because of Stuart Padnos students are able to spend a year abroad funded by a scholarship endowment recognizing his late wife, Barbara. A new Keller Engineering Laboratory Building rises out of the ground on Fulton Street giving joy to faculty and students at the Seymour and Esther Padnos School of Engineering. Fred and Bernie Keller are making that happen, and they will share the joy of the faculty and students when they walk into a completed building at the end of October.

Chuck Johnson is working a miracle in Muskegon, and his community will be permanently changed. The shovels will begin to dig on June 15th and our Lake Michigan Water Resources Center will stand complete a year later because of the successful campaign he so ably

leads. These three join twenty-one Grand Valley Hall of Famers and Leadership Award winners who are here tonight. Will they and the legislators Senator Leon Stille, Representative Jon Jellema and Representative Steve Pestka here tonight, who help bring tax dollars to intermingle with your gifts in these wonderful projects we celebrate this evening, please stand to be recognized.

Since 1976 Rich DeVos has chaired these dinners, enriching the endowment from \$1 million to \$40 million. Rich says to be a player in our community you have to be generous with purse and spirit. That's our game. There is always room for you at the table. Will our Chairman and presenters and the honorees join me on stage.