

## *A Lesson from Uncle Carl*



Carl Lindner Jr. (1919 – 2011) had to drop out of school at the age of 14 to work on his family's dairy farm during the Great Depression.

Through hard work and ingenuity, however, he rose to become one of the world's richest people. According to the 2006 issue of *Forbes Magazine*, Lindner was ranked as No. 133 on that list with a worth estimated at \$2.3 billion.

He began his career by helping to expand his family's dairy business into United Dairy Farmers, a large chain of convenience stores. With his three sons, he controlled about 42 percent of American Financial Group, a holding company in Cincinnati, Ohio, whose primary business is insurance and investments. Lindner was a part owner and chief executive officer of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team until he sold a majority interest to a group led by Robert Castellini on Nov. 2, 2005, and stepped down as CEO.

In 1997, Lindner was inducted into the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame. The Lindner family has supported several Cincinnati private schools, including Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, which was founded by the Lindners. Most recently, in June 2011, The University of Cincinnati honored Lindner by renaming the College of Business the Carl H. Lindner College of Business after him in recognition of his and his family's contributions to the college, university, and business community.



Lindner, who died on Oct. 17, 2011, at the age of 92, was affectionately known throughout the Cincinnati region as "Uncle Carl."

Some remember he kept himself stimulated by carrying with him a stack of cards with motivational or inspirational sayings printed on them. They helped encourage him, but often he would give some of them away as a blessing to others. He was a testimony to the role of faith, hope and love in the life of a human being.

What keeps you motivated? Some of the ways are daily Bible readings or a devotional book. Perhaps a Scripture verse posted on Village Square each day. A sincere compliment from a good friend, co-worker or supervisor goes a long way.

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How can you encourage others, as Lindner did? One of the friends Lola and I had early in our lives was a man named Dr. C.Z. Lockhart, a deacon in our church and a popular veterinarian in town. He had a “card ministry,” a practice of sending birthday wishes, get-well cards, messages of encouragement, or just to say, “I’m thinking of you and praying for you.”

You can imagine how those simple acts had profound effects on the recipients. Find your way to uplift others.

*Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works (Hebrews 10:25 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter