



December 2, 2015

Dear Friend of the EDHS Family,

Happy Holidays! As EDHS concludes our 17th year of 100% volunteer service, and as we wind down the 100th anniversary of the Eastland Disaster, we have an important message for you: We are absolutely *not* concluding or winding down the future efforts of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society. In fact, we are as enthusiastic as ever about the future as we now make plans to ramp up our efforts beyond the 100th.

With your interest in and commitment to helping us preserve the legacy of the thousands who were involved in the Eastland Disaster, we have made tremendous progress over the past 17 years. **Because of your partnership and support, we have:**

1. **restored** the importance of the history of the Eastland Disaster – no longer obscure, it is now an important and relevant part of Chicago culture;
2. **shared** the story of the tragedy with millions;
3. **preserved** for present and future generations the personal stories of thousands of people who were affected by the Eastland Disaster;
4. **established** five permanent physical memorials;
5. **conducted** the only criminal trial ever held in Chicago;
6. **commemorated** each anniversary, with the 100th Anniversary Weekend being a hallmark moment for everyone affiliated with EDHS; and most importantly,
7. **built** a large community of people who are all connected by the 1915 tragedy.

Shortly after the conclusion of the 100th weekend, we began getting *busier* planning the future. **Working with you, we plan to launch:**

1. our **education initiative**, the "most creative approach to making history useful and usable," targeting nearly every school in the country (junior high through college);
2. our **online research and collection center**, making all documents, records, photographs, video clips, and artifacts accessible to EDHS members around the world;
3. our plan to **market "Eastland: A New Musical"** to local theatres from coast to coast;
4. our plan to create a database of cemetery information for each victim of the tragedy, including photograph and location (GPS latitude and longitude)
5. and most importantly, **build capacity** for the future so that EDHS can continue providing value to you, your children, grandchildren, and generations to follow.

As we wind down the 100 year anniversary and begin ramping up for the future, we are announcing the Eastland Disaster Families Legacy Circle. Just as a circle is never ending, we hope that our organization's work to preserve and share your families' legacy and the history of the Eastland Disaster is also never ending. **That is what the Families Legacy Circle is all about – ensuring the future remains as bright as the past, and ensuring that the family legacies and history of the tragedy remain important, relevant, and in the forefront for generations to come.**



With the above in mind, we extend to you an invitation to be part of this historic and meaningful opportunity: **We invite you create your own personal legacy by joining the Families Legacy Circle.**

Just as the 100th was much like a family reunion, the Families Legacy Circle is an invitation to not just you, but you and your family. And just as you invited your immediate and extended family members to participate in the 100th Anniversary Commemoration, we encourage you to invite them now to participate as a family with you in joining the Families Legacy Circle. **Individuals and families who give at or above the \$100 level - one dollar for each of the 100 years since the tragedy occurred - will forever create their legacy as part of the Families Legacy Circle.**

To recognize your generosity and commitment to building the future, we are including special benefits with each level of family giving. These unique and limited edition benefits were designed to be meaningful expressions of our appreciation. The Families Legacy Circle opportunities are described in the pages that follow.

We have started something special that is of high value to you and thousands more across the country, even around the world. We hope that you will add your family's name to the Families Legacy Circle to ensure that your family's historic legacy from 1915 will be there for many generations to come. **Will you, together with the members of your family, join the Families Legacy Circle today?**

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ted Wachholz'.

Ted Wachholz, Executive Director and Chief Historian

PS: What a gift to receive this holiday season ... Sign up to become part of the Families Legacy Circle and create a legacy for your family and generations to come!