Stephen and Darcy Immerman

For Steve and Darcy Immerman, charity is not defined by financial support – though there is that too – but by the time, energy and sweat equity they give to the causes they care about: education, the arts, community development and, above all, equity and inclusion. Their dedication defines what the HeART of Giving really means.

The Immermans learned early about inequity, gratitude and generosity – the reality that there were some who were fortunate and others who were struggling, and if there was something you could do to help, you should.

Raised by hardworking parents, it is the values they learned as young people that laid the foundation for a life defined by activism, leadership and community service. Together, Steve and Darcy have had an undeniable impact on Essex County, one that is rooted in a shared passion for initiating lasting change, a wish to create a ubiquitous sense of belonging and a desire to inspire others to think differently about how social challenges can be overcome.

Collectively, the Immermans have touched dozens of local nonprofit organizations with their ability to innovate, think strategically and move others to step outside the boundaries of conventional problem-solving. Together, Steve and Darcy have served on more than 50 nonprofit boards, and the list of organizations they have supported with either time, treasure or talent is even longer.

Darcy, an energy professional and champion for women, currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Northeast Arc, an organization the couple has supported with thought leadership that has helped spur innovative arts programming and employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental
disabilities. Steve, President Emeritus of Montserrat College of Art, is Chair of the Board at The Cabot, serves on the Board at the Salem Athenaeum and is an integral part of ECCF’s Creative County Steering Committee. Other nonprofits the couple serves – or has served – include the MFA, Hamilton Hall, the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, the North Shore Chamber of Commerce, Punto Urban Art Museum, Essex National Heritage Commission, Mass Creative, Beverly Main Streets, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and many more.

Both Steve and Darcy are also recognized as innovators in their mission-based professional fields and have accumulated a list of accolades that reflect the tenor of their work in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors: leading, strengthening and helping to sustain every organization and institution they touch. It is just a part of who they are.

The Immermans live their lives with integrity, humility and a deep commitment to the greater good, and they inspire us all to see the greatness within ourselves. Steve and Darcy are a reminder that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and the entirety of what they have accomplished – together – leads us to the distinct honor of presenting them with this year’s George Peabody Award.