

Mark V. Larson, M.D., and Amy W. Williams, M.D.



“Once we understood that we could give to Mayo and invest in our passion at the same time — our decision was made.”

— Dr. Amy Williams

SERVICE TO OTHERS: A FAMILY AFFAIR

For Drs. Amy Williams and Mark Larson — and their two daughters, Eliza 16, and Hanna 13 — giving back is an important part of family life.

“Service to others is very important to us,” says Amy W. Williams, M.D., consultant in the Division of Nephrology at Mayo Clinic Rochester and associate medical director for the Department of Development. Her husband, Mark V. Larson, M.D., is a consultant in Division of Gastroenterology at Mayo Clinic Rochester. Both Dr. Williams and Dr. Larson come from families that instilled a commitment to service and giving back to the community.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Dr. Williams came to Rochester to complete her residency. “I was going to stay only three years ... and then I met Mark,” she says. Dr. Williams continued her subspecialty training and

Technology Center and Patient Simulation Center; both were developed to help physicians in training learn to deliver appropriate care to patients.”

In 2004, Drs. Williams and Larson decided to support Mayo Clinic by joining The Doctors Mayo Society. It was their way of helping to extend the services of Mayo Clinic to those less fortunate.

“It wasn’t until I got involved with the Department of Development that I fully realized how important it is to support Mayo Clinic,” says Dr. Williams. “Mark and I have been very committed to serving the underserved. We came to appreciate that we had an opportunity to directly help our patients by directing our donations to the charity funds at Mayo Clinic. Many of our patients have been devastated by their disease, are unable to work

“When our daughters eventually choose a profession, we hope part of that profession will be in some service capacity, and that they will feel a commitment to give back and share their talents with those in need,”

— Dr. Mark Larson

joined the Mayo staff in 1990. Dr. Larson received his medical degree from the University of Iowa’s College of Medicine and completed his internal medicine residency at Mayo Clinic in 1985. He then spent a year of volunteer work providing medical services in New Guinea before starting his fellowship in gastroenterology. He joined the Mayo staff in 1989. Mark’s father, Edward Larson, was a development officer in Mayo’s Department of Development from 1972 through 1986.

When they consider the future of health care, both Dr. Williams and Dr. Larson have concerns about the disparity of health care among various groups. “We share concerns about the underinsured and those whose health care needs are currently underserved,” says Dr. Williams.

“Another concern is harnessing the vast amount of information to improve the care of our patients,” says Dr. Williams. Examples of initiatives that were designed to address these needs are the new Mayo Clinic Education

and can’t afford their medications. Once we understood that we could give to Mayo and invest in our passion at the same time — our decision was made.”

Drs. Williams and Larson also belong to Mayo Clinic Alumni Association and the Plummer Society. They believe in passing on the same “service to others” message to their own children that they learned from their parents. Already, Eliza and Hanna have used their talents to be of service to others. They’ve participated on mission trips through their church – to underserved areas of Appalachia, New York and Colorado, as well as volunteering in their own community.

“When our daughters eventually choose a profession, we hope part of that profession will be in some service capacity, and that they will feel a commitment to give back and share their talents with those in need,” says Dr. Larson.