



The initial public offering of Family Dollar stock sold over-the-counter for \$14.50 per share. Howard Levine is in front — to his left are Leon and Sherman Levine.

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1962, Family Dollar did \$2 million in business and began opening stores in Georgia. Family Dollar has never borrowed any money to expand and has never had any long-term debt, another reason for its success and popularity among investors.

Today, Family Dollar Stores, Inc., is one of the fastest growing discount store chains, currently operating 4,243 stores in 39 states. Family Dollar has announced plans to open approximately 525 new stores by August 2002. But Leon Levine's legacy will go far beyond the retail industry and the business world. Leon Levine's story is a testament to the power of a good idea nurtured by hard work.

**Giving Back to the Community**

Charitable giving and civic involvement have been a way of life for Lori and Eric Sklut. The Skluts have been leaders in a variety of non-profit organizations and have actively participated in the Shalom Park Expansion Project. Camp Mindy, named after Lori's sister, was a project of the heart. "Mindy would have been so happy knowing that children were learning, being outdoors and having fun in a first-class camp facility," Lori noted.

Eric currently serves on several boards including The Foundation of Shalom Park, The Shalom Park Building Committee (co-chair), The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Community Center, United Way of Greater Carolinas, and Alexis de Tocqueville Society. He also served as President of the Jewish Community Center from 1995 to 1998, and chaired the most recent Federation campaign for 2000-2001.

Lori serves on the Board of Trustees of Charlotte Country Day School, and has served on the Boards of The Children's Theater and The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

"Lori and I firmly believe in giving back to the community, in terms of both dollars and energy. We both have been involved in a variety of volunteer roles in the community, and we are happy to contribute to many worthy causes and organizations. Our parents taught us long ago about the traditions of the Jewish people and tzedakah, and we try to live our lives in that tradition. As our children grow, our vision is to see them equally involved in religious, educational and philanthropic activities."

The Skluts have also con-

tributed to Charlotte Country Day School where the Sklut Center at the Middle School serves as the school's Arts and Activities Center, Administration Offices, Food Service facilities, Technology Center, Arts/Media Center, and multipurpose room. Lori and Eric are generous supporters of the United Way, Jewish Family Services, Hospice, Arts and Science Council, Kindermourn, Make-A-Wish, Hillel, The Jewish Day School, Crisis Assistance Ministry as well as many other organizations in the Greater Charlotte area.

**Credit Goes to Dad**

Howard Levine, President and CEO of Family Dollar Stores, believes the kudos belong to his father: "Our family's tradition of giving is a direct result of the values my father has instilled in us. The credit goes to my him for passing on the concept of giving back to the community."

Howard and Julie, recently married, give generously to a wide variety of charities. "We support many Jewish causes locally, nationally and in Israel," says Howard. Julie works full time as a psychologist in private practice and is very involved in the Jewish community. Howard has been



Sandra and Leon Levine at the opening of the Levine Museum of the New South.

involved in the expansion of Shalom Park and is very committed to assuring the success of the completed facility. "I want to make sure that once we build this fabulous facility with education, new tennis courts, new outdoor pool, new fitness and wellness center and a new gymnasium that we as a community are capable of managing it and funding it properly."

Howard has not only supported the expansion project financially, but has devoted a substantial amount of his time to understand the plans and challenges of running Shalom Park in a responsible manner. He has been an invaluable advisor to the Shalom Park building committee in many ways.

**Shalom Park Expansion Project**

"The Shalom Park Expansion Project with its two new education buildings, as well as new and

expanded JCC facilities, is the most exciting event in our community since the inception of Shalom Park. Our intent is to create a warm and engaging environment filled with vibrant Jewish communal activities. Jewish community equals Jewish continuity. The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center will be the cornerstone of the new Shalom Park and will most definitely keep the tradition alive," noted Hal Levinson.

Few people choose to share their good fortune in such an unselfish manner. Charlotte's Jewish community is fortunate to be the beneficiaries of the love, vision and commitment of the Levine and Sklut families. Due to their support combined with the dedication of our community, our lay leaders and professionals, Charlotte has become and will continue to be a special place to live. ☆



The Levine Museum of the New South on opening night.



Eric and Lori Sklut in front of the building named for them at the Middle School of Charlotte Country Day.