

Conrad Prebys



Born in South Bend, Ind., Conrad Prebys was raised in a working-class neighborhood where the mindset was to complete high school and then work in the local factories of Studebaker or Bendix. When he was 8 years old, he developed a heart condition, which doctors said would force him to lead a sedentary life and leave him unable to do manual labor. It was decided that he should learn to play the piano as a way to make a living as an adult.

The turning point in his life was meeting an inspirational high school drama teacher who exposed him to culture and the arts. The teacher was also influential in encouraging Conrad to further his education. Conrad was the first of five brothers to attend and graduate from Indiana University. He was also the first in his neighborhood to go beyond high school. To this day, Conrad attributes his appreciation for the theater, music and his success in business to this inspirational teacher.

Starting with his first job delivering newspapers at the age of 8, Conrad became a successful entrepreneur with Progress Management Co. and various real estate enterprises in San Diego. He is inspired to share his good fortune with the San Diego community.

In 2011, Conrad, a Scripps Health patient, gave Scripps \$45 million to help fund construction of the Prebys Cardiovascular Institute. That gift remains the largest he has ever made. He had previously donated \$10 million toward the construction of the Conrad Prebys Emergency and Trauma Center at Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego.

His generosity also has included capital and operating gifts to the Boys and Girls Clubs, the San Diego Zoo, the Old Globe Theatre, UCSD Music Centre, the La Jolla Music Society, Sanford/Burnham Medical Research Institute in San Diego and Orlando Florida, the Salk Institute, San Diego State University, San Diego Museum of Art and Masterpiece Theater.

Conrad's interests include classical music, travel and football.