

ELTON M. HYDER

Elton M. Hyder was born and lived almost entirely in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of the Lawrenceville School (Lawrenceville, N.J.), the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, N.C.), and the University of Texas Law School. Subsequently, he completed postgraduate work at Harvard University Executive Business School, Harvard University Law School, and Rice University Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management.

He also served for several years on the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Directors (11th District). A successful businessman and later investor, he grew up privileged but learned by observing his father's kindness, humor, and friendliness toward everyone. From those experiences, he developed his own compassion, an understanding of the need to help others, and a desire to do so.

He has served on many civic and charitable boards. Five examples include:

1. Serving for six years on the Fort Worth Children's Hospital Board during the years it merged with the W.I. Cook Foundation Hospital to create a much stronger combined children's hospital in Fort Worth.
2. Serving for 10 years on the Lena Pope Home Board, including two years as president, when it provided some of the best residential treatment homes for children under 18 in the state of Texas.
3. Serving for six years on the PBS North Texas Board for KERA TV and 90.1 Radio, including during fundraising efforts for its then-new, now current, broadcast facilities.
4. Serving for nine years on the board of Texas Wesleyan, including chairing a special three-member ad hoc committee that developed the structure for Texas A&M's purchase of its downtown Fort Worth law school.
5. Serving for 18 years on the International Tennis Hall of Fame Board in Newport, Rhode Island, including voting on players inducted into the Hall of Fame.

He has traveled extensively around the world and has seen the need for many forms of humanitarian understanding and aid. His maternal grandfather, who had a severe stuttering problem throughout his life, was a significant influence on his awareness of the need to help those with disabilities. His maternal grandmother was an elementary school teacher for several years in Waxahachie, Texas.

His paternal grandmother provided food at her home in Austin during the Great Depression to anyone who saw an "X" marked on her driveway, signaling that she was willing to share food. His paternal grandfather, a lawyer, chose not to declare personal bankruptcy during the Great Depression, instead spending the next 13 years paying off all his debts in full.