

DONALD M. WOOD JR.
1916–2004

Donald M. Wood Jr., 88, a retired insurance executive and a ubiquitous board member and volunteer in Evanston, Illinois organizations and business groups, died Sunday, March 26, in Evanston Hospital of pneumonia.

He began working in his father's insurance agency after graduating from Dartmouth College and the Amos Tuck Business School in 1933. Wood became a CAS Associate in 1937. He worked at the company, Childs & Wood, for more than half a century, except for the time he spent serving in World War II. He sold the business in 1990.

A quiet man who took his work seriously, Wood had a good sense of humor and was known for his civic activities. A resident of Evanston since 1939, Wood served as president of the city's United Way and Family Counseling, as a board member of the Evanston Historical Society, and as a trustee and usher at Evanston's First United Methodist Church. In his retirement, Wood donated his professional experience to Hispanic communities in the Chicago area, helping businesses set up insurance policies through a program run by the Executive Services Corps. "He had plenty of energy, and he was always busy," said his wife, Katherine. "He enjoyed that, and felt like he was contributing something, which is something he wanted to do."

In addition to his wife, Wood is survived by two daughters, Charlotte Wheeler and Betsy Knapp; a son, James; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.