



Ace Tomato Co., Inc.

In 1945, George Lagorio founded Ace Tomato in the small town of Stockton, California. He proudly farmed 30 acres, working tirelessly to establish a name for himself and his company.

More than 60 years later, Ace Tomato has grown into what is known as the Lagorio Family of Companies. It includes Ace Tomato, Lagorio Farming and Delta Pre-Pack—all on about 10,000 acres of farmland.

George never stopped working to create a successful business, and he worked just as hard to help make his community a better place.

It was George who inspired this sense of altruism in his family.

“My father was a special leader,” said his daughter, Kathleen Janssen, in an interview with San Joaquin Magazine. “With his intelligence and respect for all persons, his example constantly reminds me that dignity, honesty and integrity are values that must permeate our lives.”

Today, Kathleen and her husband, Dean, live by those values, donating their time and efforts to improve the lives of others. Kathleen generously gives back to the community through her involvement in United Way, Stockton Symphony, Boys and Girls Club and other organizations. She has also been a member of Stockton’s University of the Pacific Board of Regents for more than 13 years. The University is constructing the Janssen-Lagorio Multipurpose Gymnasium, made possible by the contributions of Ace Tomato and its sister companies.

The Janssens and Lagorios also avidly support Kathleen’s alma mater, St. Mary’s High School, in Stockton. They were major contributors to the Lagorio Family Library/Technology and Administration Center, constructed in 2007.

“We are very proud of this building,” said Kathleen, noting she was the first in her family to earn a college degree. “I really received the foundation of my education at St. Mary’s High School.”

And along with her entire family and the community that’s been inspired, she learned the foundation of generosity from her father.