

Bernard Marcus



Bernard Marcus is co-founder of The Home Depot, Inc., the world's largest home improvement retailer. His company revolutionized the home improvement business with its warehouse concept. He served as chairman of the board until his retirement in 2002. He remains director emeritus.

Marcus's personal civic involvement has been translated into the creation of The Marcus Foundation where he serves as chairman of the board. His areas of focus include Jewish causes, children, medical research, free enterprise and the community.

A centerpiece of his desire to give back to the community is the Georgia Aquarium, the largest aquarium in the world. The \$290 million dollar attraction is dedicated to the people of Georgia and the associates, customers and shareholders of The Home Depot. With a total of 550,000 square feet and 8 million gallons of water, it houses more than 125,000 animals.

In 1991, he and his wife Billi established The Marcus Institute, which provides programs for children and adolescents with disorders of the brain and their families. An additional commitment in 1998 led to a national expansion when The Marcus Institute joined forces with the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. In September 2008, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta joined forces with The Marcus Institute creating a new affiliate, Marcus Autism Center, which will offer expanded services for children with autism.

Among his important philanthropies is the founding of the Israel Democracy Institute located in Jerusalem. This non-partisan and non-political think tank serves as an important resource and change agent, dealing with the complex issues facing Israeli democratic society. Former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz serves as Honorary Chairman.

Most recently, Mr. Marcus announced the creation of Project Share in conjunction with The Shepherd Center in Atlanta, renowned for treatment of brain and spinal injuries. To ensure that members of the military and veterans get diagnosed and cared for without financial constraint, his Foundation will underwrite the housing, transportation and care costs of any military personnel with brain or spinal injuries who are sent to Shepherd. It is Marcus's hope that other similar centers across the country and, ultimately, the US government will take responsibility and have the appropriate staffing to care for "these brave men and women who put their lives on the line for our country." Bernie and Billi Marcus were recently inducted into the National Spinal Cord Injury Association's "Hall of Fame."

He serves in numerous leadership roles including The Shepherd Center, The City of Hope, The Marcus Jewish Community Center, and Business Executives for National Security. He and his wife Billi received The Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, given to individuals who have served with distinction in public life and have shown a special commitment to seeking out informed opinions and thoughtful views, and encourage the free and open exchange of ideas that is the bedrock of America's foundation. Other recent awards include: the inaugural award recipient for Inc. 500's Bernard A. Goldhirsh Award, USO Patriot Award, induction into the

Junior Achievement U.S. Business Hall of Fame, Jewish Federation of Great Atlanta's Lifetime of Achievement Award, the Golden Plate Award from the Academy of Achievement at the International Achievement Summit, and the Anti-Defamation League's America's Democratic Legacy Award.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Mr. Marcus received his B.S. degree in Pharmacy from Rutgers University.