



Carole and Gordon Segal

In 1962, Gordon and Carole Segal were inspired to create a new, contemporary housewares business by the simple, well designed tableware they had seen while honeymooning in Europe. The Segals knew there were other young couples just like themselves – with more taste than money – so they followed their passion and opened Crate and Barrel in an abandoned elevator factory in Chicago’s Old Town neighborhood. With the arrival of their first shipment of goods from Europe, and little cash to spare for fixtures, the Segals displayed their wares on the crates and barrels in which they arrived, inspiring both the store name and distinctive concept.

Fifty five years later, Crate and Barrel continues to be an industry leader making good design a part of everyday life in America. It has grown into an internationally recognized, multi-channel home furnishings retail chain, employing more than 7,000 associates. Crate and Barrel has over 125 stores across the U.S. and Canada, with franchises in Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Turkey and Dubai. Mr. Segal retired in 2008, but remains a consultant to the business. He is still passionate about retailing and inspires management to keep the company culture and merchandising style consistent from coast to coast.

Carole’s second creative effort was as the Founder & CEO of Foodstuffs, a highly successful chain of gourmet food stores on Chicago’s North Shore. Founded in 1979, Foodstuffs was one of the country’s first gourmet carry-out food emporiums. Carole also actively serves on many non-profit boards.

The couple resides on the North Shore of Chicago and they have three children and 8 grandchildren.