

United Way of Pickens County is providing this newsletter as a service to our faithful supporters, because we have seen the consequences of people not having an estate plan.

This quarterly newsletter provides information about the various components of an estate plan. We hope that you will use this information to consider how your estate plan can provide for your family, reduce your tax burden, and support charities that you have supported during your lifetime.

It is not intended to provide legal or financial advice. Please seek the help of an attorney or financial advisor before making an estate plan.

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## 'TIS THE SEASON OF **GIVING**...CONSIDER PAYING IT FORWARD

**GIVING** has been recognized as one of the most basic human virtues. We give our time and energy, we give Christmas presents, and we give when the offering plate is passed to us.

But **GIVING** to help a total stranger? Now that's a different thing, altogether.

The news media has reported about a phenomenon happening at drive-thru restaurants. People are paying for the meal of the person in the car behind them. It's called "Pay It Forward," and was popularized by the best-selling novel published by Catherine Hyde Ryan. People are **GIVING** to help total strangers, not for the recognition or praise, but out of the kindness of their heart.

"The person in the car ahead of you just paid it forward," declares the giggling drive-thru cashier, as she hands your order through your car window.

According to a Google search, this unique **GIVING** is happening every day across America; in Seattle, Boston, Fargo, ND, and in Pickens County.

**GIVING** to United Way of Pickens County is kind of like "paying it forward". In 2016-2017, 2,969 people in our community donated, or paid it forward, \$1,162,245 to help struggling children learn to read, to help 1,208 people file their income taxes for free, and to support 24 organizations and programs that serve residents in Pickens County. We are so grateful for your **GIVING**, and for your heart to make a difference!

When you consider today's uncertain economy, it is truly amazing that thousands of **GIVING** individuals across Pickens County "paid it forward" to help a fellow neighbor in need, without receiving any recognition or praise in return.

**GIVING** is vital to the work that United Way of Pickens County is able to do for others. "As a United Way Board member, I have the privilege of seeing first-hand what **GIVING** is able to accomplish in our community," said Connie Bowers of Pickens. "I wish everyone could see the lives that are changed, and the difference that their gifts are making."

"Paying it forward" in a restaurant drive-thru line often elicits the response of "Wow, I want to do that too!" **GIVING** encourages **GIVING**. According to Google, the largest spontaneous outbreak of drive-thru

generosity occurred in December 2013 at a popular restaurant in Winnipeg, Manitoba. A total of 228 consecutive cars “paid it forward” over a span of 8 hours.

**GIVING** also ignites something deep within us that is hard to define. It diminishes the emphasis on our self, and allows us to help improve the welfare of others.

That’s why I want to invite you to “pay it forward,” and give a gift that will keep on **GIVING**...an estate gift to United Way of Pickens County. Unless otherwise indicated, all estate gifts are deposited into our Endowment Fund, where gifts will remain in perpetuity. Our Endowment Fund is conservatively invested, with a portion of the annual interest earnings going to meet needs and help people in our community. One faithful Heritage Society supporter referred to his estate commitment as a gift that “lives on and on in support of people and needs in Pickens County.”

A simple way to “pay it forward” and make an estate gift to United Way of Pickens County is to complete a codicil (a one page document) that simply states; “When I die, I want to make one final gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to United Way of Pickens County.” A sample codicil is on our website: [www.uwpickens.org/heritagesociety](http://www.uwpickens.org/heritagesociety).

Of course, we always encourage you to seek the help of an attorney or accountant when finalizing your estate plan. And, we invite you to share your plans with us, so we can ensure that your future wishes are adhered to, as you “pay it forward” to those in need in Pickens County.

## **YEAR END GIVING...WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?**

Did you know that close to 40% of Americans wait until November and December to donate to charitable causes? Many folks want to qualify for the tax benefits that charitable **GIVING** offers. To help guide your year-end **GIVING**, we have enclosed a complimentary pamphlet outlining several **GIVING** options to consider.

Will you consider **GIVING** to United Way of Pickens County at year’s end, so that we can serve the needs of residents in Pickens County? Your gift will:

- Help 275 struggling students in grades 1-3 learn to read at 2018 Camp iRock,
- Provide help to over 1,200 people in Pickens County so that they can file their income taxes for free, and
- Support 24 organizations in Pickens County that are helping to meet thousands of people’s basic needs, such as Meals on Wheels, Samaritan Health Clinic, United Christian Ministries, and Family Promise.

Everything we do relies on the generous support from our **GIVING** family. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Just a quick reminder...in order to qualify for a 2017 tax benefit, your year-end gift must be dated and postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL HERITAGE SOCIETY RECEPTION ON JANUARY 25**

Please mark your calendar, and plan to join us for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Society Reception on Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 6-7:30 PM at the home of Dr. Jonathan Strange, 221 Providence Way in Easley, SC 29642. A formal invitation will be mailed to you in early 2018. Join us for food and refreshments, as we update you on the programs and services of United Way of Pickens County, and recognize the Charter Members of the Heritage Society. Go to our website ([www.uwpickens.org](http://www.uwpickens.org)) for more information about the Heritage Society’s 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Reception.

You are invited to join the *Heritage Society* by planning an estate gift to help support the ongoing mission of United Way of Pickens County. You will be joining other likeminded individuals who have made plans to support United Way through their estate plan. A planned gift is a perfect way to help support our ongoing work in Pickens County in perpetuity. If you would like to discuss how to make one final gift to United Way of Pickens County through your estate plan, contact Mark Eisengrein at 864-850-7094 ext. 108 or email at: [meisengrein@uwpickens.org](mailto:meisengrein@uwpickens.org).