

PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER #5: FEBRUARY 2018

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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TRAILBLAZERS!

On January 25th, faithful supporters of United Way of Pickens County (UWPC) gathered at the home of Dr. Jonathan Strange in Easley for the 1st Annual *Heritage Society* Reception. Debbie Carmical, chair of UWPC's Planned Giving Committee provided information about a new initiative to support United Way of Pickens County through your estate plan. She shared how she made the decision to pledge her support, and recognized the following individuals for becoming charter members of the *Heritage Society* (as of Jan. 25):

Anonymous	Jim and Julee Kaplan
Connie and June Bowers	Don Lundquist
Bill and Theresa Caldwell	Kathryn McCombs
Julie and Jim Capaldi	Wayne and Heidi Pendergrass
Debbie Carmical	Larry and Diana Pope
Mark and Sheree Chapman	Jeff and Natalie Putman
Drake and Ada Curry	Will and Ashley Ragsdale
Mark Eisengrein	Dr. Jonathan Strange
Dr. Wing and Florence Fung	Harold and Betsy Weaver
Jim and Betty Garrison	

Special thanks to these 32 trailblazers for pledging to make one final gift to UWPC through their estate plans. Estate gifts are deposited into the Endowment Fund, and support the ongoing mission of United Way of Pickens County in perpetuity.

HAROLD WEAVER: WHY I AM SUPPORTING UNITED WAY OF PICKENS COUNTY IN MY ESTATE PLAN.

Harold Weaver of Easley is a 48-year supporter of United Way. Recently, he shared why he has chosen to support United Way of Pickens County in his estate plan:

"I have supported United Way of Pickens County for many years, because it is a local organization, managed by local people, governed by local volunteers, and supports the efforts of 24 local charities. It is an efficient way to help many in our community."

"When I was asked why I have chosen to include United Way of Pickens County in my estate plan, my answer was simple. It doesn't cost me anything, since the money comes from funds that remain after I die. Secondly, it's easy to do. Most of us have some asset with a named beneficiary, like a life insurance policy, retirement account, or an annuity. You can simply change the beneficiary designation so that a percentage or portion goes to United Way of Pickens County when you pass. Also, you can designate a gift in your will as well. Thirdly, you can change your donation if your circumstances change. You have control over this decision during your lifetime. Lastly, you will never miss it. That's right, you will be making a gift that doesn't affect your financial status one bit."

"I would like to encourage everyone to join me in making a final gift to United Way of Pickens County in your estate plan. You won't miss it, and it will touch the lives of folks in need, right here in Pickens County."

CONSIDER HAVING THE "TALK" WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN

Do you remember when you sat your children down to have the "talk"? Yes, it was uncomfortable, but you knew that it was the right thing to do. Well, it could be time for another "talk" with your kids. But this time, you're speaking to your adult children about your health, finances and wishes in your final stage in life.

Many of us are reluctant to discuss our health and finances with our children until a crisis occurs. A sudden health issue often catches people unprepared, and perhaps out of time. That's why pre-planning your final wishes is so important. The "talk" with your adult children can be a difficult and emotional conversation, but the benefits of your children knowing your wishes can be extraordinary. Here are some topics to guide your "talk":

- **Income** – Share with your adult children the sources of your income, and what changes may happen when one parent passes.
- **Investments** – Discuss with your adult children, and provide them copies of statements and bank reports.
- **Insurance** – Let your adult children know what insurance policies you have, and who you have designated as your beneficiaries.
- **Will** – Provide your adult children with up-to-date, signed and notarized copies of your will. Be sure your children know where they can access an original copy of your will.
- **Executor** – Let your children know who you have designated to be your executor when you pass. This person will wind up your affairs, and distribute assets and bequests (final charitable gifts) in accordance with your will.
- **Legal documents** – Discuss with your adult children the important legal documents that designate people to make decisions on your behalf, if you become incapacitated:
 - **Healthcare Power of Attorney:** who will make healthcare decisions if you are unable
 - **Financial Power of Attorney:** who will make financial decisions if you are unable
 - **Living Will:** explicit directions about your personal and medical care if you are unable

As always, we encourage you to seek the help of a professional advisor (attorney, investment manager or accountant) to ensure that your "talk" with adult children covers the important details.

A FREE BOOKLET ON DONATING SECURITIES...HOW CAN I GET A COPY?

With the strong performance of the investment markets, it may be particularly advantageous to donate securities rather than cash. If you own stocks, mutual funds or other securities that have increased in value, and you have owned them for more than a year, it may be wise to use them to make charitable gifts. United Way of Pickens County is offering a free 12-page booklet detailing the advantages of donating securities. This booklet answers some of the most commonly asked questions, including how to preserve cash, donate appreciated securities, generate a current income tax savings, while making a significant gift to United Way of Pickens County. Sound too good to be true? Send an email to: meisengrein@uwpickens.org or call (864) 850-7094, ext. 108 to have a free booklet mailed to you.



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 in perpetuity. You will be joining other likeminded individuals who have made plans to support United Way of Pickens County through their estate plan. 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.