



PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER #14: APRIL 10, 2020

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.

Provided quarterly, this newsletter contains 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 a local attorney or financial advisor before making an estate plan.

United Way of Pickens County
P.O. Box 96
Easley, SC 29641
864-850-7094
www.uwpickens.org/heritage-society

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please send an e-mail to Mark Eisengrein at meisengrein@uwpickens.org.

HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER...THE CORONAVIRUS EDITION

The dark clouds of the coronavirus pandemic have rolled into our nation...and into Pickens County! Its impact on our day to day lives continues to grow. If you, or a loved one has been touched by the virus, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

A FREE OFFER DURING THIS CRISIS!

During this unprecedented health crisis, many people across the country are realizing that they need to take the appropriate steps to develop their will and plan their estate.

A 90-year old retired physician in Hilton Head may have said it best in a recent newspaper article:

“We have a responsibility to do more than social distancing and washing our hands. It’s a shock to the world, but we must get prepared now to face end of life decisions.” (Link to the full story [HERE](#))

In order to be of service to the generous supporters of United Way of Pickens County, we are offering an opportunity for you to create a **WILL**, thanks to our partnership with United Way Worldwide. And the best news is...it’s **FREE!**

To create your **FREE WILL**, go to: <https://www.freewill.com/will/getstarted> to utilize the online guide that will step you through the 20-minute process.

While you are finalizing your estate plan, we want to invite you to make a final gift to United Way of Pickens County through your **FREE WILL**. It’s an easy way to give from your remaining assets, and it will help Pickens County residents in need through our Endowment Fund.

SEVEN STEPS TO CREATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN...#7 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT!

Creating an estate plan is an important step that everyone needs to take. It’s been on your “to-do” list for years. But you just can’t seem to take the first step. Here are some things to consider...don’t overlook #7:

- 1. Create an inventory of your finances:** Develop an inventory of your assets and debts. The more complete and detailed this inventory is, the better you can plan your estate. AND, it will be a great relief to your surviving family members one day. Among the assets to include in your estate inventory:
 - Cash and bank account holdings
 - Real estate
 - Retirement accounts
 - Personal items (e.g., cars, jewelry, art collections, boats, etc.)
 - Business interests
 - Stocks and bonds
 - Life insurance policies

2. **Create a list of your beneficiaries:** This list should include children, spouses and other loved ones. Creating this list of specific beneficiaries can be helpful in determining the best methods of transferring assets to them later. And, be sure to list any charities (and addresses) that you wish to make a final gift upon your demise.
3. **Consider your options for a personal representative and/or executor:** Who do you trust to oversee your estate, administer your will and/or handle the probate process one day? Develop a list of possibilities, and prioritize your options. Keep in mind that your top choice may not necessarily be available or willing to accept this responsibility when the time comes.
4. **Consider your options for powers of attorney:** Who would you trust to make important medical and/or financial decisions on your behalf if you should become incapacitated in the future? Keep in mind that you can choose different people for medical versus financial decisions, and that your powers of attorney can be limited, expansive or even split between two (or more) parties, depending on your needs and goals.
5. **Develop a list of questions to ask your legal or financial advisor:** What are your biggest concerns or anxieties that you have about estate planning? Are there specific needs or situations? Developing a list of questions can be helpful when it's time to meet with your financial advisor or estate attorney to formalize your estate plan.
6. **Create a deadline to finalize your estate plan:** Set a goal over the next week to create your estate plan, and stick to its successful completion. Putting off estate planning can end up backfiring, costing you and your loved ones additional costs and much heartache, should there be a sudden health change or unfortunate accident.
7. **Schedule a consult with an experienced local estate attorney** – Seek the advice of an estate planning attorney in order to avoid mistakes, and to develop the right plan for you and your loved ones. At United Way of Pickens County, we can recommend several local attorneys that have helped thousands of Pickens County residents create an estate plan.

These are some of the steps necessary to start your estate planning. The **MOST** important thing to do is to take action...we encourage you to start **TODAY!** Your surviving spouse and children will be so appreciative!

HERE'S ANOTHER HELPFUL TOOL!

One helpful tool that millions of Americans have used to document their end-of-life directives is **FIVE WISHES (click HERE)**. Founded in 1996 as a private, nonprofit organization, Five Wishes is America's most popular living will, and helps individuals talk about, and plan for, care at the end of life. Five Wishes is written in everyday language and helps people express their wishes in areas that matter most – the personal, spiritual, medical and legal aspects of end of life. And, it allows your caregiver to know exactly what you want. This document meets the legal requirements in South Carolina.



You are invited to become a member of the *Heritage Society* by pledging an estate gift to United Way of Pickens County. Unless otherwise indicated, your final gift will live on and on in the Endowment Fund helping those who struggle to access food, shelter, and healthcare in our community. And, you will be supporting United Way of Pickens County's bold goal that 70% of 3rd graders read at grade level. *Heritage Society* members gather annually to welcome new members and to hear an update about the work that their annual support is making possible. If you want to help Pickens County residents in need for generations to come, simply contact Mark Eisengrein at 864-850-7094 ext. 108 or email him at: meisengrein@uwpickens.org