

PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER #19: APRIL 24, 2021

MEET LUCAS AND ASHLEY DURHAM OF EASLEY

Born and raised in Easley, Lucas and Ashley Durham have spent their entire lives calling Easley home.

“When I was 10 years old, I started a summer grass-cutting business in my neighborhood,” said Lucas. “I’ve always had an entrepreneurial spirit.” Lucas’ yard business was given a loan by First National Bank of Easley so that he could purchase a riding mower. “I will always be indebted to Jim and Leighton Grantham and First National Bank, for helping me start my business. I was just a youngster of age 14, but they invested in me, and I worked hard to repay that loan.” From those humble beginnings 25 years ago, Lucas’ passion blossomed into a highly-successful custom landscape construction company, called Landscape Perceptions, serving the Upstate.

Ashley met Lucas while home from Nursing School. “Lucas was cutting grass in my neighborhood, and we said hi,” said Ashley. Six years later, Ashley ran across Lucas in Easley and they started dating. “I guess you could say that the rest is history.”

The Durhams have been married for 9 years, and they enjoy raising their two sons in Easley, where they were raised. “It’s amazing when you look back to see how God was bringing us together,” said Ashley. “And now living and working in the city that we have always called home, well, we’re indeed blessed.”

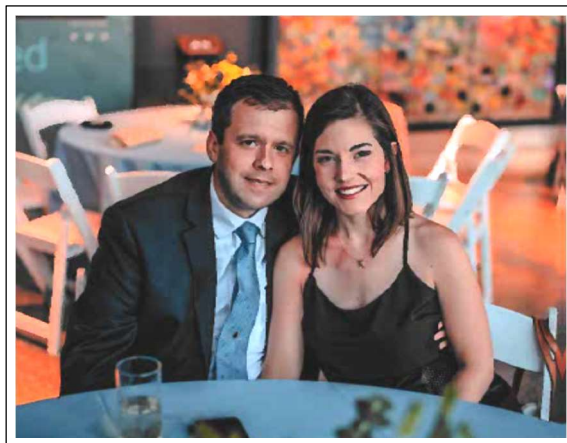
The desire to help others and to give back was modeled for Lucas and Ashley during their childhood years. “We weren’t wealthy people growing up,” said Lucas. “My parents always taught my sister and I to give, whenever we could help others.”

“As a young girl, I marveled at how my Grandmother Marian was always giving and helping others,” said Ashley. “At her funeral, so many people told me how she helped them financially when they couldn’t make ends meet. I resolved then that I wanted to have that same generous spirit that she had, and to help my neighbors in need when I had the opportunity.”

The Durham’s started giving to United Way as a means to help our local community with local problems. “So many charities spend their dollars where you can’t see the impact, and we love knowing we are helping our neighbors,” said Ashley. Their generous annual support led to Lucas serving in a leadership role. “When Julie invited me to join the United Way Board, of course I said YES,” said Lucas. “United Way of Pickens County is one of the most professionally-run organizations, and they address needs right here in

Pickens County. I’ve seen, first-hand, how they are faithful stewards of donated resources, and how local citizens actually allocate the funds.”

During a recent Board meeting, Lucas was introduced to the Heritage Society program. “The Board heard about people in our community pledging to make a final gift to United Way of Pickens County through their estate,” said Lucas. “That idea intrigued me, and so I talked with Ashley about us making a similar pledge in our estate plan.”



Lucas and Ashley Durham

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.

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“We love calling Easley home, and want to make our community better for future generations,” said Ashley. “And, we want to be an example to our boys about the importance of giving to help our neighbors in need, just like my Grandmother Marian did.”

Ashley and Lucas Durham want to invite United Way supporters to join them in making a final gift through their estate plan. “We’re thankful that our final wishes have been documented, and that one day we’ll be able to make an estate gift that will live on forever in United Way’s Endowment Fund helping local people in Pickens County,” said Lucas.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DONATING REAL ESTATE?

Most people don’t think of using real estate when they consider making a charitable donation. Property, such as a house, farm, condominium or vacation home, can be an important philanthropic planning tool. Here’s some questions that may help you to decide about donating some of your real estate:

- **What are the advantages of donating real estate?** Some of the advantages are: 1) You may claim an income tax deduction based on the full current value of the property. 2) You can avoid paying capital gains tax on any increase in the property’s value since you acquired it. 3) Gifts of real estate can offset up to 30 percent of adjusted gross income in the year of the gift...if you itemize. 4) Unused income tax deductions can be carried forward for up to five years.
- **What type of real estate can I donate?** You can donate almost any type of marketable real estate, including a residence, vacation home, rental or commercial property, and undeveloped land. If you own marketable property, you can donate it, either now or through your estate plan.
- **How can I donate real estate?** There are many ways to donate real estate. The type of property, your tax situation and your personal charitable objectives will determine which strategy is most appropriate. An outright gift of real estate allows your generous gift to make a difference now, and will normally result in a significant tax savings. Leaving real estate to United Way of Pickens County through your will may offer an efficient way to make a significant future gift without impacting your current situation.
- **Is there a way to make a gift of real estate and receive an income in return?** Yes, you may transfer property to a charitable trust. When the trust sells the property, no capital gains are paid. You, and/or someone you name in the trust, can receive income based on the full value of the property for life or for a set number of years. When the trust terminates, the remainder will be given to United Way of Pickens County.
- **Can I donate my residence and still continue to live there?** Yes, you can donate your home or farm to United Way of Pickens County, and continue to live there for the remainder of your lifetime. This arrangement is called a retained life estate. When you irrevocably deed your residence to United Way of Pickens County, you retain the right to live in it for the rest of your life...and your spouse’s life too! You will receive an immediate tax deduction. Following your death, United Way of Pickens County will sell your property, and use the proceeds for our mission.

When considering a gift of real estate, keep the following in mind:

- The property must be readily salable, and not be subject to any mortgage.
- To meet IRS requirements, your property will need to be appraised by a qualified appraiser.
- The exact tax savings depends on your specific situation.

Contact a local tax attorney or financial advisor to discuss donating real estate to United Way of Pickens County. We will work with you and your legal representative to ensure that your charitable and personal objectives are met.

JOIN US FOR A FREE VIRTUAL ESTATE PLANNING “LUNCH & LEARN” SEMINAR

You are invited to join us “virtually” for a free estate planning “Lunch & Learn” Seminar **on Thursday, May 13, 2021, from Noon-1 PM**. Greenville Trust and Estate Attorney Adam Lee of the Dobson Law Group will spend 50 minutes discussing the important “first-steps” when updating your will. And, he will be available to answer your specific questions following his presentation. Registration is required, so please email meisengrein@uwpickens.org to receive a link to our virtual seminar, and a copy of the materials that will be discussed.



You are invited to join the **Heritage Society** by pledging an estate gift to United Way of Pickens County. Unless otherwise indicated, your final gift will live 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 at: meisengrein@uwpickens.org