

PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER #30: JANUARY 4, 2024

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 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 planner before making an estate plan.

Mailing address:
United Way of Pickens County
P.O. Box 96
Easley, SC 29641

Physical address:
United Way of Pickens County
201 South 5th Street
Easley, SC 29640
864-850-7094 ext. 108

Website:
www.uwpickens.org/heritage-society

Tax ID# 57-0476249

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

A HEART-FELT THANK YOU AND MESSAGE FROM JULIE CAPALDI AT UNITED WAY OF PICKENS COUNTY:

"For thirty years, I have been fortunate to work beside wonderful board members, a talented and hard-working staff, and over 5,000 community-minded donors that helped to meet needs and improve the lives of those living in Pickens County."

"When a tornado rolled through Pickens County and homes were destroyed, you stepped forward to help. When COVID shut down businesses and hard-working individuals were laid-off and couldn't pay their bills, you provided resources to help them get through the tough time. When students needed remedial reading instruction, you supported Camp iRock, and helped over 2,700 elementary-aged children learn to read and catch-up to their classmates. And when struggling families needed help to get out from under predatory lenders and climb out of the cycle of poverty, you made the Pathways Program possible."



Julie Capaldi, President
United Way of Pickens County

"From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each of you for always stepping forward to lend your support to help your neighbors. You are AMAZING!"

"I have one more **DREAM** that I want to ask you to consider in the coming years. Each of you have provided resources to stand in the gap for those in need. But what if our supporters moved away...or heaven-forbid, passed from this world? How will Pickens County residents in need be helped...in five, fifteen or even thirty years?"

"I want to ask you to please consider pledging a final gift to United Way of Pickens County through your estate plan. I have pledged my entire estate (whatever is left once I'm gone) to our organization, because I know what that will do to help others in the years ahead."

"Whether you pledge a final cash gift, a percentage of your remaining assets, a bank CD, your car after you're gone, a life insurance policy or any unused real estate, your gift will be deposited into our Community Enrichment Fund, which will continuously provide United Way of Pickens County with resources to serve, educate, and help those in need."

"Fifty-four individuals have pledged a final gift to United Way of Pickens County. We've highlighted many of them in this newsletter over the years. **I am asking YOU to join them, by pledging a final gift (of whatever amount you decide) to our organization in your estate plan, so that those in need can be helped in the years ahead.**"

"Be sure to speak to a local financial advisor or attorney, so that your ideas and plans can be documented properly. And please let us know about your plans, so that we can thank you, and include you and your spouse in the Heritage Society activities."

(over)

"Again, thanks for all that you have done over the years for our community. And thank you for considering making a final gift...one day...so that those in need can be helped and served."



Consider these New Year's Resolutions in 2024 by Attorney Michelle King, LLM of Merline & Meacham in Greenville

"New Year's resolutions allow us to pause and reflect on the year behind us, and plan specific things for the year ahead," said Attorney Michelle King. "I want to suggest two important resolutions to consider in 2024:

1. **RESOLUTION #1: Review your estate planning documents in 2024.** "Over the years, family dynamics change: there are births and deaths, marriages and divorces, new health challenges and family addictions, investments going up and down, and real estate has been purchased and sold. Life is full of changes. Perhaps your will or care documents need to be updated to accurately reflect your wishes. Secondly, it is important to update your list of assets, including cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, and personal property (such as automobiles, jewelry and collectibles). And, don't forget to review your beneficiary designations for bank accounts, investments accounts, retirement accounts and life insurance. You will have peace of mind knowing that whatever life situations appear in the coming years, you have successfully documented your wishes."
2. **RESOLUTION #2: Speak with your parents about estate planning.** "Yes, talking to your parents can be challenging, because you don't want to discuss their demise or think about your parents' as suddenly gone. However, it's important that you and your siblings have this conversation openly and honestly with your parents, so that all can better prepare for their financial future, while avoiding family drama. Here are some tips to help get you started:
 - a. *Don't wait.* While it may not feel like there's ever a right time to talk about what happens after your parents pass, the sooner you have a plan in place, the better. Unfortunately, nothing in life is certain.
 - b. *Be inclusive.* In order to prevent arguments later over what your parents 'would have wanted,' be sure to include all siblings or stakeholders in this important family-meeting.
 - c. *Consult with a local attorney before you have 'The Talk'.* A local attorney can walk you through the process and provide you with 'best practices' prior to meeting with your parents. If you don't have an attorney, I would love to meet with you at Merline & Meacham, PA in Greenville. Please feel free to call our office at 864-242-4080 or email me at: mking@merlineandmeacham.com.
 - d. *Start with key topics.* Early estate planning conversations should include whether or not your parents have a will, a completed healthcare power of attorney form, or a plan for the family business, if relevant.
 - e. *Designate roles.* Find out if your parents already have a role for you in their estate plan. For example, if you are named the personal representative of the estates, you'll need to know where their important documents are located, in order to manage their assets after they pass. And be sure to make proactive plans for healthcare and day-to-day financial decisions for your parents' later years, should they become incapacitated.



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 Community Enrichment 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