Carrying on a Family Culture of Giving

Maureen Roult had no idea anything was wrong when she brought her newborn home from the hospital. That night, her daughter passed away unexpectedly from an undiagnosed heart defect.

At her doctor’s suggestion, Maureen met with a Children’s National cardiologist. The cardiologist took the time to explain her daughter’s condition and answer all of Maureen’s questions. His compassion and commitment stayed with her.

“For the doctor to spend his time and talk with me about my daughter, when I didn’t even have a child who was a patient, said that Children’s National is truly a great hospital. That’s one of the reasons we give.”

Maureen’s generosity is a family trait. Growing up, she remembers regular charitable work with her uncle and other relatives. So it is no surprise that she married Ray Caron, a man who not only puts an extra item or two in his basket for families in need, he fills an entire shopping cart just for them.

Why? Ray shrugs, “Isn’t that what you’re supposed to do?”

Maureen and Ray had long careers in civil service prior to retirement including, for Ray, more than thirty years as a U.S. Air Force reservist. They both have given generously to Children’s National for more than two decades. When it came time to update their wills, it seemed natural to name the hospital as a beneficiary.

“We can’t use it when we’re gone, so it should go to making healthcare possible for more children,” says Maureen. Their legacy gift to Children’s National will do exactly that.

For Maureen and Ray, membership in The Guardian Society is the logical next step for a couple committed to sharing what they have with others.

“We don’t have children of our own, so the money we don’t spend on things like clothes, orthodontia and college we can spend on healthcare for people who can’t afford it. We definitely recommend others make Children’s National part of their will.”

- Maureen Roult
Your Philanthropic Footprint

How does philanthropy fit into my personal planning goals? What is the best way to make my gift? How should timing affect my decision? What do I want my legacy to be?

There are many ways to leave a lasting philanthropic footprint, and by knowing your options, you can be assured that “how you give” is exactly the right fit for your personal planning and philanthropic goals.

Give and Receive

Charitable gift annuities are gifts that give back. In exchange for your gift, Children’s National promises to pay a fixed lifetime income to whomever you designate as the income beneficiary. If two income beneficiaries are named (two is the maximum), the payment rate is lower but the lifetime payments continue as long as either income beneficiary lives.

As you consider options for supporting us, keep these additional charitable gift annuity benefits in mind.

Choose when payments begin: You can choose to begin lifetime payments immediately or defer income to a specific time in the future. Deferring payments also comes with an additional benefit—an increased payout rate for the life of the beneficiary.

A tax deduction: Your gift qualifies for an immediate tax deduction, if you itemize deductions, based on the amount we are expected to receive when the payout period ends. The amount of the deduction depends on the amount of the gift, when payments begin, and the age of the annuitant(s).*

Your gift need not be cash: Although many donors use cash, appreciated property such as stock can also be used to fund a gift annuity. There can be advantages to using appreciated stock rather than cash to establish a gift annuity, particularly with regard to capital gains tax that would otherwise be due when the stock is sold.

We can provide an illustration showing the payment amount and tax information based on specific gift amounts. Simply let us know what you are considering and we will be happy to provide you with specific information.

Sample gift annuity rates for one person

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Rates effective July 1, 2018. Contact us to verify current rates.

Gifts of appreciated stock: value for you and for Children’s National

A gift of stock provides added value to donors and helpful, timely support for our work caring for sick and injured children and their families. In addition to making a significant impact on our work, a carefully planned gift of stock can:

• provide a tax-wise way to meet philanthropic goals
• generate a significant income tax charitable deduction for those who itemize

Donors can reduce or even completely avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated stock that is given to us, and itemizers can still take an income tax charitable deduction based on the stock’s full fair market value.

Note: To avoid the capital gains tax on a gift of appreciated stock, the stock must be transferred directly to us. If you sell the stock and then make a gift of cash, you still pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. Contact us for more information.

*Please consult with your financial advisor regarding your own situation.
Sammy’s Story: Growing Up Stronger Thanks to Innovative Treatment

When Sammy arrived at Children’s National he was only 20 months old. The last six months had been a nightmare of vomiting, weight loss, and vision and movement problems. The Neurology and Neurosurgery team diagnosed Sammy with a hypothalamic tumor—a growth that had severely pressed upon his optic nerve and caused spinal fluid to collect around his brain. His condition was so severe that an attempted biopsy of the tumor triggered severe bleeding. He went into a coma.

Dr. Roger Packer and his neuro-oncology team—in concert with the intensive care team—began immediate treatment, employing a chemotherapy protocol he developed thirty years ago and has refined at Children’s National. Sammy rose to the challenge; his strength and resilience matched the level of commitment provided by his care team. As his health improved, he loved to dance for his nurses, even throughout his intensive treatment regimen.

“I’m not sure I’ll ever be able to thank Children’s National enough,” says his mom, Jennifer. “They saved Sammy’s life.”

Now, less than two years after his treatment began, Sammy is an active, happy three year-old. He has full cognitive function, excellent vision and continually improving mobility. The tumor has reduced in size by eighty percent and Sammy is in remission. And he still loves to dance.

Your Path to a Meaningful Philanthropic Footprint

The generosity of our friends and supporters plays a vital role in our work. All gifts have a significant impact on our mission. All are important. All are valued.

As you consider your year-end goals, remember it would be our pleasure to work with you and your financial advisors to consider the various ways philanthropy can meet your personal planning objectives. Please contact us if we can help you in any way, and remember to order our free brochure, Year-End Taxpayer Strategies. Thank you for supporting Children’s National; we look forward to hearing from you.

A Gift from Your IRA: an Important Option After the 2017 Tax Law

The tax law passed in December 2017 did not change the popular IRA Charitable Rollover—a charitable distribution from your IRA directly to Children’s National.

If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or over, this option lets you use your IRA to make charitable gifts that count toward your required minimum distribution and you avoid all income tax on the distribution (regardless of whether you itemize). Compared to making a gift of cash, a gift directly from your IRA is a tax-wise way to give. You can support our work and satisfy the required minimum distribution rule without paying any taxes on the distribution.

To make a tax-free charitable distribution from your IRA:

• You must be 70½ or over.
• You must instruct your IRA custodian to make a distribution directly to Children’s National. (We can provide transfer instructions for your gift—just contact us.)

Up to $100,000 of your gift qualifies for this favorable tax treatment, and your gift makes an immediate impact. There is no need to wait until the end of the year!
Is Children's National already in your will or other estate plan but you haven't told us? If so, please let us know now so we may welcome you to The Guardian Society.

The Guardian Society recognizes the very special people who have included Children’s National in their philanthropic planning. Their forethought and generosity help to ensure world-class care, advocacy, research, and education at Children’s National through a lasting legacy. To learn more about making a legacy gift, please visit our website www.childrensnational.org/planagift or contact me.

Woof! Celebrating the Healing Power of our Canine Friends

“The idea of going to play with the therapy dogs motivated Lane to get out of bed for the first time,” said Lane’s mom, Tina, with tears in her eyes. “He smiled the whole time and really opened up to the team about his love for dogs and our dogs back home.”

Lane, 17 years old, was at Children’s National for most of the summer. He needed several rounds of antibiotics for Crohn’s disease. What he found he needed more was the unconditional and spirited love of four-legged friends before he felt like himself again.

The visitation program began in 2003 when Allie and Adelle Lee, founders of Greenbelt Dog Training in Greenbelt, Maryland, requested that their pet dog visit their hospitalized son. Currently, volunteers bring pets to the hospital at least twice a month, providing comfort to nearly 500 children annually. Over the next year, the program will expand significantly thanks to a grant from PetSmart Charities.

Starting in late 2018, Children’s National will add the program’s first full-time animal visitation coordinator. This will allow more animal visits throughout the hospital and outpatient clinics, benefitting more than 9,000 children each year.