Making Birthday Memories

For years, children battling cancer at Children’s National had something special to look forward to on Wanda Bissell’s birthday. Miss Bissell, a member of The Guardian Society and retired government employee who now resides in North Carolina, would round up toys from friends and deliver them to the hospital. It was her unique way of giving back after overcoming a strenuous personal battle with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

“I was diagnosed with leukemia when I was 40,” she recalls. “I learned that ALL is a cancer common in children. As time went on, I thought there must be something I can do to help young people who may be suffering with this awful illness. That’s when I decided to call Children’s National.”

Miss Bissell met Debbie Freiburg, Vice President of Nursing at Children’s National, who became a strong ally in her quest to bring cheer to children as they battled cancer. “Debbie first greeted me with small red wagons, which we used to transport all the gifts I had packed in my car. She then led me from one child’s room to the next,” remembers Miss Bissell. “I dropped off games, coloring books, and electronic toys to the children, who smiled from ear to ear. It was wonderful the first time I did it, and it became a birthday tradition.”

“As time went on, I wanted to make a lasting difference. I decided to name Children’s National in my will and designate my gift to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders,” she says. “It was easy. I just called Children’s National and spoke with Vikki Ismael, Senior Associate Director of Gift Planning, and she was right on it! Mrs. Ismael gave my attorney the specific language to be included in my will.”

Miss Bissell, who now spends her time birding and walking dogs, believes her estate gift will have a real impact in children’s lives. “I know what it means to receive a heartfelt gift, which I was given from an unrelated bone marrow donor. While I never met him in person, we did speak once, and for years we exchanged birthday cards. Children’s National is a heartfelt place and so giving back was a natural thing to do.”
A Father’s Story

Joshua Kanter, MD, a cardiologist at Children’s National, knows a thing or two about empathy. As a physician who treats the smallest and sickest of hearts, he often has difficult conversations with parents. When his own child, 6-year-old Judah, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, he gained a new understanding of what parents experience in the wake of such news.

“I’m definitely more aware,” says Dr. Kanter, whose son continues to embrace life despite his cancer. Upon arriving at Children’s National for treatment, the spirited kindergartner often performs a chemo ritual, belting out “I’m getting chemo!” while dancing around the

outright gift of real estate to Children’s National entitles you to an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of your property as determined by a qualified appraisal (subject to annual deduction limits). You also avoid potential capital gains taxes that would be owed if you sold your property. Of course, donated property must be readily marketable so that Children’s National may use the proceeds of your gift to support our programs and services.

Donate Your Home Now and Live in It

For many years, Bev, age 75, has wanted to make a significant gift to Children’s National. She owns her home, but her children (in their 50s) are not interested in owning it. Bev is left

Maximize Your Tax Deduction through an Outright Gift

Perhaps you own land that you haven’t developed or likely will not develop. An
with selling her property, triggering substantial capital gains taxes. She can make a significant gift of her home today and continue to use it for as long as she wishes. When Bev no longer needs the house, Children’s National will sell it and use the proceeds of her gift to help children live healthy lives.

There are various options with a retained life estate gift and specific circumstances to consider, but this is one example of how real estate can be used to meet your personal needs and also support our work. We can assist in planning such a gift to be certain that insurance, property taxes, and other important issues are covered.

**Planning Flexibility: The Charitable Remainder Trust**

An important characteristic of a charitable remainder trust is its flexibility. For example:

- You may elect a fixed-dollar amount (e.g., $10,000 a year for life) or a fixed percentage (e.g., 5 percent of the value of the trust assets as re-determined each year). With the fixed-dollar amount (charitable remainder annuity trust), your annual payments do not change. With the fixed percentage option (charitable remainder unitrust), your annual payments are subject to changes in the market and may fluctuate.

- You may direct annual payments to yourself and/or to loved ones for life or for a specified period of time (up to 20 years).

- You may fund a charitable remainder trust with cash, stocks, bonds, real property, and life insurance. Low-yielding, highly-appreciated assets are good choices to fund the trust.

**Turn a Vacation Home into an Income Stream**

There certainly are many advantages to owning a vacation home; however, insurance, taxes, and maintenance can detract from the enjoyment of these retreats. This is another type of real estate that may be used to create a gift for Children’s National.

Did you know that you may convert your vacation home into an income-producing asset by donating it to Children’s National through a charitable remainder trust? The property will be sold and the proceeds will be invested to produce income. (Because the trust is a tax-exempt entity, the sale does not incur immediate capital gains taxes that you would realize if you sold it.) You and/or loved ones you name will receive annual trust payments, and you will receive a current income tax charitable deduction. When your trust terminates, Children’s National will receive the remaining trust assets to give children the best possible care. See **Planning Flexibility: The Charitable Remainder Trust** above.

The advantages of donating a vacation home through a charitable remainder trust can include:

- A significant gift to Children’s National
- An income tax deduction
- Avoidance of immediate capital gains taxes
- Annual income for life or for a term of years
- Removal of a large asset from your gross estate for federal estate tax purposes

**Find Out More**

Planning a gift of real estate requires time and attention to detail. You need to consider a number of factors. The first step is to speak with your advisors as well as a representative of our gift planning team. Together we can explore the advantages of different options for your particular circumstance.

To learn more about these options, contact us by phone or email, or simply use the enclosed card to request our complimentary booklet, **Gifts of Real Estate—Unlocking the Financial Benefits**. We will be glad to help you plan a gift that is both charitably and financially rewarding.
A Father’s Story
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room in brave preparation. Judah is also quite curious and makes a point to pepper his nurses and doctors with a lot of questions.

His father and mother made a point to educate him about the cancer he is fighting. Now, after having had four significant treatment sessions, he is receiving outpatient treatments. Judah’s prognosis is hopeful, as there is an 85 percent success rate for children with his type of cancer.

Judah’s oncologist, Anne Angiolillo, MD, notes that when parents entrust their children to her, they are putting their most precious treasure in her hands. In this case it’s her colleague’s child, and her empathy for the talented cardiologist with whom she works is palpable. “It resonates even further in my heart,” she says.