



# The PHYSICIAN Spring 2019

## LEGACY

News and Gift Planning Ideas for Friends of The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society

## GENEROSITY'S LASTING IMPACT

As LeRoy Erickson strolls the halls of Bethany Village West, he is greeted by each passerby. Every resident, every staff member—even other visitors—greet Erickson with a smile. He is somewhat of a local celebrity here in the Mechanicsburg retirement community.

Erickson and his late wife of 56 years, Marianne, were the very first residents of Bethany Village West in 2004. Even though Marianne passed away in 2013, her memory lives on thanks to the generosity of her husband. Erickson donated funds to build a sunroom dedicated in Marianne's honor near the Collegiate Café, a bustling area of the retirement community. On a sunshine-filled, late winter day, employees and residents alike enjoyed the bright, welcoming room.

Erickson's generosity has also benefitted the Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, an organization near and dear to his heart. He was employed by the Pennsylvania Medical Society for 34 years and served as executive director of the Foundation from 1982 to 1994. During his leadership, he built lasting relationships within the community. His kind and welcoming personality proved to be far-reaching.

"I left a lot of the other things that I was doing in my life to focus on the medical society activities, which were very interesting," he said.



*LeRoy Erickson*

One of Erickson's greatest accomplishments was establishing the Physicians' Health Program. He saw a need to help "sick doctors," and the program was born.

Erickson's generosity to the Foundation continues. He feels a strong connection to the future physicians—and recognizes how contributions to the Foundation benefit medical students and support the financial burden of their education.

"I believe in the work of the Foundation, so I give," Erickson said. "I see the results. You tell the stories."

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**Inside:**

- Giving to Make a Difference
- Discover Another "Pocket" for Giving

# GIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Charitable giving is often about making a difference and helping others. Because of the support of people like you, The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society can serve the areas of greatest need in the physician community.

This year, there is more good news about giving to your charitable interests. As a result of the latest tax law changes, fewer people will be subject to the federal estate tax, leaving more available to spend, save and give.

Here are some ideas to consider if you would like to increase your charitable giving this year:

## *Giving Now*

If you are age 70½ or older and would like to make a current gift to the Foundation, you can give directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) completely free of federal income tax (up to \$100,000 per person per year; \$200,000 per couple with separate IRAs). Giving directly to the Foundation from your IRA won't increase your adjusted gross income, ensuring your Social Security income will not be subject to a higher level of taxation. Additionally, your IRA gift may count toward your Required Minimum Distribution.

## *Giving for the Future*

Through your will or living trust, you can make a meaningful gift to The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society that impacts current and future members of the medical community. After first providing for loved ones, you can devote all or a portion of **"what's left"** (the residue) of your estate to the Foundation.

You can also use your will or living trust to leave **specific dollar amounts** or leave designated **percentages** of your estate. Designating a percentage means that as the value of your estate changes, the amounts your beneficiaries receive will be adjusted automatically. See the sample bequest language at right.

For more information, or if we can answer any questions about the charitable aspects of your plans, return the enclosed card or contact Lori Storm at [lstorm@pamedsoc.org](mailto:lstorm@pamedsoc.org) or call (717) 558-7861.



## Bequest Language

*"I give, devise and bequeath to The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, located at 777 East Park Drive, P.O. Box 8820, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ % of the residue of my estate (or otherwise describe the specific property or percentage of the estate) to benefit the Foundation's charitable work."*

# DISCOVER ANOTHER “POCKET” FOR GIVING

When you begin funding a retirement plan, you think about the people you will need to provide for, what they will require and how much you can afford to set aside over the years. Using retirement funds for charitable giving is generally not among most people’s plans at the outset.

However, as you begin to see funds accumulate in your retirement accounts, opportunities present themselves to use your retirement plan as a “pocket” for giving. For example:

- **If you are at the age at which you are required to withdraw a certain amount** from your retirement account each year, it may be advantageous to make your charitable gifts from these funds.
- **When you leave retirement funds to children, the funds can be subject to income tax** (and possibly even estate tax). Therefore, you may prefer to leave retirement plan remainders to

charity while using other assets to provide for heirs.

- **Gifts from retirement plans are among the easiest gifts to arrange.** You may make a charitable gift from your retirement plans by naming the Foundation as sole beneficiary of your retirement plan assets, as a final beneficiary to receive all funds remaining in case loved ones do not survive you or a beneficiary of a percentage of the funds.

These are just a few examples of ways that retirement funds can help you continue your support of The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society without jeopardizing your retirement security.

For more information about making a gift of retirement plan assets, confidentially and without obligation, return the enclosed card or contact Lori Storm at [lstorm@pamedsoc.org](mailto:lstorm@pamedsoc.org) or call (717) 558-7861.

## GENEROSITY’S LASTING IMPACT

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Erickson contributes to the Foundation from his IRA which, because of his age, is a tax-wise option. You can read more about this wonderful way to give on page 2.

Because of loyal and generous supporters like LeRoy Erickson, the Foundation’s vital work can continue now and in the future.

For more information about this and other ways to support the Foundation, contact Manager of Philanthropy and Hospital Relations Lori Storm at (717) 558-7861.





# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**D**o you have life insurance policies or retirement plan accounts? Along with bank and investment accounts, life insurance and retirement plans can make up a significant portion of our overall estate.

Unlike other assets, however, these may be distributed through a beneficiary designation form filled out when the plan or account is created (rather than through your will). Take the following quiz about beneficiary designations to see how much you know.

**Once I assign a beneficiary for my retirement account, life insurance policy or investment account, I never need to think about this again.**

True  False

**FALSE.** Events in your life, such as a change in marital status, the birth of grandchildren, moving to another state, the loss of a loved one, changes in your charitable wishes, etc., can affect your current beneficiary designations. Making sure they still reflect your intentions for your loved ones and charitable interests is important. It's a good idea to conduct a yearly review to ensure your beneficiary designations are up to date.

**It's a simple process to make a change or addition to a beneficiary designation.**

True  False

**TRUE.** It may be as easy as going online to make the change electronically or filling out and signing a basic form and mailing it to the institution (insurance company, retirement plan administrator or financial entity). Contact your plan or account administrator for more information.

**I can list multiple beneficiaries to receive these assets.**

True  False

**TRUE.** Many choose to leave these assets to their spouse or other loved ones. However, there may be certain tax implications for your heirs. As you are making your plans, you may want to consider using one or more of these accounts to make your charitable gifts and use other assets to provide for your family.

**I can name the Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, insurance policy, bank account or investment account.**

True  False

**TRUE.** You can generally name a charity to receive all or a portion of these accounts.\* If you choose to do so, it is important to make sure you have our proper legal name to ensure the assets go where you want them to.

*\*Special rules apply to some "pay on death" provisions in some states. Check with your advisors if you have questions about updating beneficiary designations.*

*Our legal name:*

**The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society**

*Our federal Tax ID:*

**37-1732501**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



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**The Foundation**  
of the Pennsylvania Medical Society

*Education. Wellness. Excellence. Always.*

## Mission

The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society provides programs and services for individual physicians and others that improve the well-being of Pennsylvanians and sustain the future of medicine.