Remembering Friend and Benefactor Cecilia Malin

Author Alan Lakein once wrote that the act of planning “is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.” In that vein, benefactors like the late Cecilia Malin (1943-2016) bring Masonicare’s future into the present by remembering The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut in their wills and estate plans.

Born in New York City, Cecilia grew up in Middlefield, CT and earned degrees from Central Connecticut State University and Wesleyan University. Her strong organizational and communication skills led her to a career as executive secretary for the town of Wallingford for over 20 years.

Cecilia and her husband, Frank, moved from Meriden to a cottage at Ashlar Village in 2003 - in large part because of the ready access to healthcare and other services they would have as Masonicare residents. As her health declined, Cecilia did eventually make use of those services, both in the comfort of her cottage and, ultimately, in the inpatient hospice unit at Masonicare Health Center. But she also took full advantage of the Ashlar Village lifestyle,

“How Ashlar Village fulfilled that need for my mother 100 percent and beyond,” said Wallingford’s Donna Rackie. “She loved to stay busy. Whether it was learning a new language, playing Scrabble with other residents or attending any of the musical programs, she was never bored.”

Donna recalls how proud Cecilia was to have been featured with Frank in a marketing campaign for Ashlar Village. A postcard with their photo was mailed to prospective residents.

“My mother thought that was the greatest thing,” Donna said, “because she loved having the opportunity to put in her two cents about all the things she loved about living there. She framed that postcard. It was on her refrigerator for the longest time, and mine, too.”

Seeing friends and neighbors transition from Ashlar Village to long-term care at Masonicare Health Center, and learning that The Masonic Charity Foundation helped subsidize the care of residents whose funds had been depleted, inspired Cecilia to become a Foundation donor. She supported special events of The Foundation and gave to the

“I want, even with my final gift, to be able to say that I value Masonicare.”

...
Masonicare Annual Appeal before joining the ranks of Foundation benefactors with her generous bequest.

“Celia believed very strongly in volunteerism and giving back,” Frank said. “She knew the value of helping those less fortunate. Making a bequest was right up her alley.”

For Cecilia, giving to The Foundation through her will was also part of a broader estate planning strategy that provided for loved ones as well as causes she cared about.

“When I’m no longer here,” she explained in a 2012 interview, “I want to know that my kids will be taken care of and I’ve also made a provision in my will for my church. But The Masonic Charity Foundation will also receive a portion of my estate so that it can continue to do the things that I appreciated while I was here. I want, even with my final gift, to be able to say that I value Masonicare and want to enhance the quality of life of the residents coming along after me.”

Cecilia was such a strong believer in legacy gifts for one’s favorite charities that she invited The Foundation’s Executive Director, Jennifer King, to speak at her church about charitable giving through wills and estate plans.

“One of the things I appreciated the most about Celia,” King said, “was her strong belief that any person can make a difference in the lives of others. She encouraged others to know and understand the charitable causes that meant the most to them, and find a way to support those causes, either through volunteerism, an annual gift, or even a bequest in one’s will. I will always remember Celia as an advocate not only for Masonicare, but for all people aspiring to give back to their communities.”

Leave a Legacy to The Masonic Charity Foundation

Bequests of all sizes are a wonderful way to support The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and a powerful statement to others of your belief in the mission of Masonicare.

Should you wish to remember The Foundation in your Will, we encourage you to provide the following bequest language to your attorney:

“I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, or ___% (percentage) of my estate, or $___ (sum of money) to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, CT.”

Please note that The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and its full, legal name is “The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.” The Foundation’s Federal Tax Identification Number is 06-1435920.
Avoid Market Volatility – and Benefit Masonicare – with a Charitable Gift Annuity

Before retiring from his post at The Masonic Charity Foundation in 2006, **Gail N. Smith** loved telling prospective donors about the many benefits of the Foundation’s charitable gift annuity (CGA) program – benefits to both Masonicare and the donor. Today, Smith sings the program’s praises as the holder of three CGA contracts.

A charitable gift annuity is a simple agreement between you and The Masonic Charity Foundation. In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash or securities (i.e. stocks and bonds), you and/or a loved one receive a fixed income for life. Annuities can be single-life or two-life contracts and income rates depend upon the age(s) of the annuitant(s) at the time the gift is made (please see current rates at right). In addition to fixed income, other benefits can include partially tax-free annuity payments and an immediate income tax deduction.

“I funded my first CGA with money I received from the life insurance policy of my wife, Susan, who passed away in 2005,” Smith recalls. “She wanted to make sure that I would be better off financially. Thanks to the monthly payments I receive from that CGA, she is still a part of my life. That’s deeply meaningful to me. The next CGA I funded was in memory of my father, Gail L. Smith. The annuity rates are unbelievable, and I was so pleased with the service I’ve received from Foundation staff, I funded a third gift annuity.”

Charitable gift annuities also compare favorably with numerous investment options, Smith said, because they aren’t subject to fluctuations in the stock market.

“The markets can be volatile,” he said, “and the economy is up and down. But gift annuities with The Masonic Charity Foundation are consistent. I know that my payments will never change.”

A Past Grand Master of Connecticut Masons (1989 and 2016) and Past Worthy Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut, Smith is also an Emeritus member of The Masonic Charity Foundation Board who has also graciously committed to chair the 2019 Masonicare Golf Classic. In other words, he’s still very much invested in the mission of Masonicare and gives so that mission will endure.

“My wife received homecare from Masonicare,” he said, “as did my sister and aunt. My mother and father were Masonicare residents. The care that all of them received was fantastic. I will never be able to repay Masonicare for everything they did for my family.”

To receive a personalized illustration of how you might benefit from a charitable gift annuity, simply fill out and return the enclosed reply card to us. Or contact Alison Koons, Associate Director of Philanthropy, at 203-679-5573 or akoons@masonicare.org.

**Gift Annuity Rates as of May 7, 2018**

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**American Council on Gift Annuities**

| 85-85 | 6.7% |
| 90-90 | 8.2% |

**New annuity rates will become effective July 1, 2018. Stay tuned for more information ...**
More Great Ways to Give in 2018

We’ve already told you about bequests, but to further the important work of Masonicare, The Masonic Charity Foundation offers a variety of other planned giving options, including:

The IRA Charitable Rollover – Charitable giving through IRAs has become even more attractive for charitable donors as a result of the 2017 federal tax act. Given that many donors will no longer itemize deductions, charitable giving through IRAs enables donors to support The Masonic Charity Foundation while obtaining a tax benefit from their gifts. Specifically, a charitable gift through an IRA reduces a donor’s taxable income, thus providing a tax savings – even for those donors who will not itemize their deductions, including charitable contribution deductions, going forward.

The way it works: If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can give up to $100,000 directly from your IRA to The Foundation (a husband and wife could each give up to $100,000 to The Foundation from their respective IRAs). Distributions from IRAs directly to charity are not included in your gross income, therefore they are not tax deductible, but you can still realize tax savings, as you can fulfill all or a portion of your required minimum distribution (RMD) by an amount equal to the distribution from the IRA to the charity. For example in 2018, if your RMD, calculated based upon your age and the value of your IRA(s), will be $12,000 and you wish to make a gift of $5,000 to The Foundation in 2018, you can request that the $5,000 be paid directly from your IRA to The Foundation. The $7,000 balance of your RMD ($12,000 - $5,000 gift to The Foundation) will be paid to you directly. You will be taxed on the $7,000 distribution you received, not the full $12,000 RMD.

Please contact your IRA custodian for the forms necessary to accomplish an IRA rollover. You can have your IRA administrator mail a check directly to The Foundation or wire the IRA distribution to us. The Foundation is happy to provide these wiring instructions.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock – You may gift stock to The Foundation, typically via electronic transfer (we will provide you with wiring instructions for your broker). Gifts of appreciated stock are also a tax efficient means of giving as you will avoid capital gains taxes, which would otherwise be incurred on the sale of the stock. In addition, you may be eligible to receive an income tax deduction for fair market value of the stock at the time the gift is made.

TOD/POD Accounts: An easy, convenient, and tax-wise way to support The Foundation through your estate plan. Simply add a “Transfer on Death” (TOD) or “Payable on Death” (POD) designation to your investment account or bank account, naming the Foundation as beneficiary. This is done by filling out a simple TOD or POD beneficiary designation form. You can designate that all or a portion of your investment account, savings account, checking account, money market, or certificate of deposit pass directly to The Foundation at your passing.

Benefits of this type of gift include: A percentage of the account may be designated for The Foundation with the remaining portion designated for children or other loved ones; the TOD/POD beneficiary is revocable and may be changed during your lifetime; the TOD/POD transfer will avoid probate fees and delays; and the TOD/POD gift is removed from the donor’s taxable estate.

If you would like more information about these or any other planned giving vehicles offered by The Foundation, please give us a call at 203-679-5555 or 800-562-3952. Please note that The Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice. We recommend that you consult a professional tax advisor when considering charitable gifts.

If you would prefer not to receive any future fundraising communications from The Foundation, please write to us at MCF of CT, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, Attn: Administrative Assistant. Please provide your full name and street address. Note that it may take six to eight weeks to make your request fully effective.

Or call us at 800-562-3952 or 203-679-5555.