Caring for children, both then and now

Our employees at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin do amazing work for the kids. And, as you might imagine, many of them are also our most passionate advocates and donors.

In this issue, we would like to share a few stories from retired physicians and employees – people who know us well – about why they support Children’s Hospital. Dedicated to helping children throughout their lives, they have thoughtfully included Children’s in their estate plans.

As parents, grandparents and now great-grandparents, Dr. John (Jack) and Elizabeth (Terry) Altstadt have a vested interest in ensuring access to medical care for children.

Beginning with his residency, Jack has been associated with Children’s Hospital for more than 45 years. With experience both on the clinical and administration sides, Jack remarked, “I am privileged to have been involved in the phenomenal strides Children’s has made to become one of the finest pediatric centers in the U.S. It deserves our whole community’s support.” Terry adds, “It is an organization that treats people well and it’s obvious how much everyone involved in the hospital loves children.” The Altstadt’s gifts, both annual and through their estate, support primary care, child abuse prevention and other needs.

According to Jack, “I’ve seen what others have done before us and the impact their financial support has had. It’s often said that children are our future and it’s true; without healthy, educated kids, you don’t have much of a community.” In addition to Children’s, Jack and Terry have also been active volunteers with other child-focused organizations.

Dr. William (Bill) and Patricia (Pat) Gallen have been involved with Children’s through Bill’s career as a pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist. For 38 years, Bill served in various capacities, including Chief of Cardiology as well as the head of other departments. Pat was also dedicated to helping children, volunteering for numerous committees at the hospital and serving on Children’s Hospital Board of Directors. Their commitment to Children’s includes naming Children’s Hospital a beneficiary of their estate.

After moving to Tucson, Bill found new opportunities to use his skills by...
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volunteering at a free clinic. He and Pat spend time helping out at various community-minded organizations.

According to Pat, “We have always cared about those who haven’t been as blessed as us. We lost our son, John, at the age of 22 to leukemia. He was treated at Children’s and everyone was always extremely kind. One of our children is now a doctor and works in pediatric hospice. She introduces herself as a bereaved sibling, which helps her connect with families. We consider this a gift from John.”

As the former Director of Nursing Research at Children’s Hospital, Mary Kachoyeanos, EdD witnessed the growth and development of Children’s Hospital firsthand for almost a decade. “I saw a commitment to excellence at every level of the organization,” states Mary. “From patient care to preventive care to outreach in the community, Children’s has always had worthy goals.”

This awareness of the need for early care to help keep kids healthy is one of the reasons Mary has made a bequest to Children’s Hospital to help fund nursing research. She has seen many instances where medical problems later in life might have been avoided if proper care had been received as a child.

Mary attributes her commitment to philanthropy to her parents. Her dedication to helping others also includes volunteering for numerous organizations that work to improve our community.

Dr. Larry and Roberta (Bobbi) Polacheck have a long history with Children’s Hospital. As a pediatrician practicing for 40 years in the Milwaukee community, Larry spent his last 10 years with Children’s Medical Group and helped found its Bayshore Pediatrics office.

Now retired, Larry and Bobbi, who spent her career as a psychotherapist and guidance counselor, continue to devote their time and talents to Children’s Hospital. Larry currently serves on Children’s Hospital and Health System Foundation Board of Directors and Bobbi has been very active with Children’s Health Education Center over the years. According to Larry, “I have always respected Children’s Hospital’s mission and leadership. It is a great organization that deserves our support.”

The Polachecks’ passion for children is demonstrated not only through their gifts to Children’s Hospital, but also through their volunteer commitments to other nonprofits active in helping Milwaukee’s central city children.

Dr. Ronald (Ron) and Agnes Wells say the spirit of philanthropy has always been a part of them – something instilled in them by their parents and grandparents.

Ever since he was a young boy, Ron wanted to be a doctor. After graduating from Beloit College, he taught high school for a couple of years while saving money for Northwestern University medical school. It was while teaching that Ron discovered how much he enjoyed working with children and decided to specialize in pediatrics.

After an internship at Milwaukee County General Hospital and two years as a medical officer in the Navy, Ron went to Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago to complete his pediatric residency. However, his love for Milwaukee drew him back and he established a private pediatric practice with staff privileges at Children’s Hospital.

Ron and Agnes are proud parents of one son and two grandsons. Their estate gift supports both general hospital needs and student aid opportunities for those completing pediatric residencies.

We are grateful for the years of service these individuals contributed to Children’s. Their continued dedication to Children’s Hospital and the families we serve is inspiring.
Life changes—sometimes suddenly and unexpectedly. This is why we take precautions such as setting up a savings account or purchasing insurance. However, many people overlook their will when planning. If you do, you will be leaving decisions about the distribution of your estate up to the state in which you live. It may mean the people and organizations you care about most won’t benefit from your estate. Here are some tips on how to set up this essential part of your life plan.

What stage of planning are you in?

I don’t have a will
Your will or trust is probably the most important legal document to have, regardless of your life circumstances or level of wealth. When you establish a will, you control crucial decisions regarding the distribution of your assets and even how your life will be remembered.

Step by step:
How to create your will
• List all your assets and decide whom you want to receive specific possessions or a share of your assets.
• Determine who will be your personal representative and will implement your wishes.
• Contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning to draft your will; then execute it properly. In some states, including Wisconsin, it must be notarized to be valid.
• Keep it in a safe place and make sure others know where it is and will have access to it.

I have a will in place
You’ve taken one very important step in lessening future worry for your loved ones. Your will, however, reflects the time when it was created. It’s essential that your will stays up to date. Some changes that could affect your current will include:
• Grown kids.
• Births, deaths or changes in marital status.
• Changes in the value of your estate.
• Tax law changes.

Step by step:
How to update your will
• Locate a copy of your current will.
• Mark the areas you would like to change.
• Meet with your estate planning attorney, who may use a simple codicil to change your existing will.

For more will planning tips, visit www.chw.org/plannedgiving.

The best care for kids
One of the most difficult things for a parent to see is their child in pain. Still, this is a reality for many of the children who come to Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. To provide the very best in care for these children, we have a pain management program.

Staffed with pediatric specialists, our pain management team works closely with both inpatient and outpatient services to treat children with painful illnesses or conditions—like cancer, sickle cell anemia or injury. Our patients benefit from the latest medical approaches as well as proven, effective alternative therapies.

Support for this program funds ongoing research into the best methods to reduce pain in children. Pain cannot always be eliminated, but oftentimes it can be reduced to tolerable levels, greatly enhancing quality of life.

For more information on this invaluable program, visit our website at www.chw.org/painmanagement, or return the reply card to receive written information.

For more will planning tips, visit www.chw.org/plannedgiving.
Remembering the children

From the beginning, we have depended on the generosity of others to help us care for the kids. And although people give for different reasons, their love of children has always been a central theme. This past year, Children's Hospital was blessed with estate gifts from many caring individuals:

- an art teacher who gave the majority of her estate to charities that help children;
- an occupational nurse who spent her life caring for others;
- a secretary who left the gift of hope to children living in difficult family environments;
- a retired business owner who passed to his own children the legacy of helping others;
- a lady who devoted 41 years to helping children with speech and language concerns;
- a couple who established a trust to benefit countless children; and
- a WWII Navy veteran who provided for children he would never know.

We are honored to acknowledge our 2011 estate donors:
Andrew F. and Edith M. Bell Perpetual Trust
Harry L. Cook
Helen M. Cudahy Trust
Margaret Gotz Endowment Fund
Helen Trane Hood Charitable Trust
Helen Way Klingler Charitable Foundation
Harry E. Koepke
Mabel E. Koepke
Oscar H. Kraft
Arthur G. and Patricia J. Kupka Charitable Trust
Douglas Majhenich
Lawrence F. Marty Charitable Trust
Barbara W. Morrissey
Mrs. Vivian A. Pendleton
Ms. Mary J. Rybacki
Louise DeCasseres Mayer Salinsky
Isabel Schendel - Robert and Josephine Pieper Trust
Mrs. Irene E. Spyhalski
Jack and Ann Valkenier Trust
Mrs. Rosella E. Wellert

Bequests help us in so many ways to carry on the important work of the hospital.

If you are considering including Children’s Hospital in your estate plan, suggested bequest wording is on the back of the enclosed reply card. To direct your gift for a special purpose or program, contact Kelly Sachse, senior planned giving director, toll free at (888) 543-7233 for additional wording. No obligation, always confidential.

Visit our new website and win a prize!

Be one of the first 25 people to answer the following question:

What are two charitable gifts that you can make after your lifetime that will not impact your current financial status?

Find the answer to this question by logging on to www.chw.org/first25. Then discover if you are one of the winners!