



DIALOGUE

A conversation with our constituents

Fall 2020, Volume 2

HONORING A FAMILY TRADITION OF GIVING

For Julie Johnson, Crouse Health is an important part of her family.

Julie's grandfather was a general practitioner who was involved with the Crouse organization early on. Her uncle, after serving in World War II, was the chief of medicine at Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital for more than 30 years. Julie's husband, Lew, established and served as the director of the cardiac catheterization lab at Crouse for nearly 15 years. Julie was even born at Crouse, and so were her and Lew's three children.

"Crouse is a part of my family tradition," Julie shared. "It has played a huge role in my life and has really meant a lot to me."

Inspired to enter the healthcare field by her grandfather, Julie completed her nursing training at Crouse in 1961. After graduation, Julie worked in the operating room for three years while Lew finished medical school. Later, she joined the nurses in the cardiac catheterization lab for the rest of her professional career. "I never wanted to do anything else," she said.

Julie and Lew moved to South Carolina for eight years and it was there they were first inspired to volunteer their time to local communities in need of healthcare assistance.



Julie Johnson

After their grandchildren were born, they returned to Syracuse and began to devote their time and giving to Crouse Hospital.

"We wanted to give back in every way we could," Julie said. Through Crouse Health Foundation, she established the Julie M. Johnson Scholarship, an endowment fund which annually provides financial assistance to students in the Pomeroy College of Nursing at Crouse. "We also focus our giving to help underserved people who are unable to afford healthcare."

For the past 15 years, Julie has been actively involved with and has contributed yearly gifts to Crouse Hospital Nurses Alumni Association. She volunteers with Meals on Wheels of Syracuse, where she served on the board of directors for three years. She also served on the board of directors for the Samaritan Center for eight years and continues to support other organizations, such as the Food Bank of Central New York. "I am motivated to help people in need," Julie said, "particularly with food deprivation."

"Crouse has had its challenges over the years," Julie said. "But the hospital is moving in the right direction. Crouse has meant so much to me and my family, and we want Crouse to be here forever."

Inside: • Ideas for Giving in 2020
• A Gift to Live In

CROUSE HEALTH FOUNDATION

IDEAS FOR GIVING IN 2020

As we count down to the end of the year, many people are looking for creative ways to increase their support to Crouse Health Foundation. Here are a few ways to consider giving before year's end.

- As a result of the *CARES Act*, gifts of cash have special benefits in 2020. For example, an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 is available for cash gifts to public charities, offering tax savings for taxpayers who don't itemize.

Another tax benefit available this year is the usual limit on deductions for cash charitable gifts (up to 60% of AGI) is suspended, meaning taxpayers are allowed to claim unlimited deductions on their 2020 tax returns.

- People often are surprised to learn there are different tax benefits from giving different types of assets. For example, gifts of highly appreciated securities may be particularly favorable. If you've owned stock for more

than one year, donors can deduct not just their original cost but also any "paper profit" in the shares. Best of all, there are no capital gain taxes due when you give securities. Excess deductions can be carried over for up to five additional years.

If you own stock that has dropped below the price you originally paid, consider selling shares and donating the proceeds. You will be entitled to a capital loss deduction and also a charitable deduction.

- Some people have life insurance policies that are no longer needed for their original purpose. It might be beneficial to rededicate these policies to Crouse Health Foundation and generate a charitable deduction.

We're here to help

If we can provide you or your advisors more information, please contact Kim Pietro at (315) 470-7702 or kimberlypietro@crouse.org or return the enclosed reply card.



More Resources for Planned Giving in Uncertain Times



Anne Ruffer, Esq.,
partner, Mackenzie
Hughes, LLP



Caragh Fahy, CFP,
owner and president
at Madison Financial
Planning Group

Crouse Health Foundation would like to thank Anne Ruffer, Esq., partner at Mackenzie Hughes, LLP, for presenting "Estate Planning Amid Covid-19" and Caragh Fahy, CFP, owner and president at Madison Financial Group for presenting "Your Financial Wellness Amid Covid-19." This webinar series is an instructive resource for information regarding your financial and estate planning in these uncertain times. If you would like more information, please contact Kim Pietro at kimberlypietro@crouse.org.

A GIFT TO LIVE IN

Real estate can be a practical option for those who wish to make a significant gift to Crouse Health Foundation. There are several methods for making a gift of real estate. For instance, you can give your residence—a vacation home or other property—while continuing to live there. This is known as a “life estate.” You are still responsible for taxes, maintenance and other upkeep; however, you still keep any income the property produces.

A life estate arrangement allows you an immediate income tax deduction, which will be for the calculated value of the eventual charitable

gift. It also considers the value of your right to continue using the property. If you choose, your spouse or someone else may also keep on using the residence after your lifetime.

Crouse Health Foundation receives full use of the property at the end of the final beneficiary’s lifetime.

Learn more

For more information about giving a life estate arrangement to Crouse Health Foundation, please return the enclosed reply card or reach out to us for more information.

An Example of a Real Estate Gift

Alice is a widow who has supported Crouse Health Foundation for many years. She has a son who lives elsewhere and is very successful. Alice plans to leave the bulk of her estate to her son and other family and intends to give her home to Crouse through a provision in her will. Alice has recently learned she will no longer owe federal estate taxes and is interested in ways to accelerate her estate gift that could yield immediate tax savings.

After discussing with her son and her advisors, Alice decides to make a gift of her home now while reserving the right to live there for the remainder of her lifetime. Under the terms of her gift, she retains the full benefits and duties of ownership,



including taxes and upkeep, as well as the right to any income should she later decide to rent the property.

Because she has arranged a gift of her home, Alice is entitled to an immediate federal income tax deduction for approximately three-quarters of its value. She can

use the deduction to reduce her income taxes for the year of her real estate gift and in as many as five future tax years. The sizable charitable deduction may also make it possible to deduct certain other expenses she does not currently itemize on her tax return.

THE LIVING TRUST EXPLAINED

Though living trusts have been a popular estate planning tool for decades, before having one drafted, you may want to understand the purpose of a living trust and how best to use one in your overall estate planning. In simple terms, a living trust is an alternative means of owning property and making the proper arrangements for the property after one's lifetime.

A living trust can accomplish a number of things: It reduces or avoids probate fees and estate settlement, allows assets to be distributed more quickly and keeps the disposition of your assets private. It also provides protection in the event of disability and can easily be changed or revoked during your lifetime without the formalities of a will.

If you decide that a revocable living trust makes sense in your planning, consult an attorney who specializes in estate planning. This is not a do-it-yourself project. An attorney can help determine which assets to place in the trust and transfer title to the trustee. You may decide to act as your own trustee; however, remember your assets must be transferred to the trust.

During your lifetime there will be little obvious difference between owning an asset outright or owning it in a living trust. For example, if you transfer shares of stock to the trust, you will continue to be taxed on dividend income received from the shares. If you wish to sell or give away an asset, you simply direct the trustee to transfer the item. If you become incapacitated, your trust can continue to provide



for the management of the assets without the need for a court to appoint a guardian or conservator.

However, after your lifetime, the trust is very different from a will. First, assets held in the trust are not included in your probate estate, so probate fees are reduced. Second, because the assets pass as directed in the trust document, the transfer can often be made more quickly without waiting for probate court approval.

Because transfers made by a trust are not subject to court review, they are not a matter of public record. In contrast, a will is a public document, available to anyone who requests it. Your will can provide that other assets in your estate are to pass to your living trust—known as a pour-over will—so your bequests remain private.

MORE INFORMATION



Kim Pietro

The mission of the Crouse Health Foundation is to support Crouse Health in providing the best in patient care and promoting community health.

Kim Pietro, Director of Development, kimberlypietro@crouse.org

Crouse Health Foundation
736 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13210 • (315) 470-7702

All inquiries will be held in strict confidence and information is provided with no obligation.

