



# DIALOGUE

A conversation with our constituents

Summer 2023, Volume 1

## GRATEFUL TO GIVE

**K**aren Visco and Ryan Hunter married in 2017 and two years later - after experiencing fertility challenges - were ecstatic to find themselves expecting their first child, Jackson.

But Jackson's entry into the world didn't go as planned. In June 2019, Karen and Ryan were visiting family in Syracuse when Karen's water unexpectedly broke when she was just 26 weeks pregnant. "I called my doctor and was told to go to the hospital immediately. Luckily, a doctor at our family gathering recommended Crouse Hospital's level four NICU," Karen shared.

Karen and Ryan's weekend trip from their home in New York City turned into a nearly two-month stay. On June 29, two weeks after Karen was admitted, Jackson was born, weighing 3 pounds. He was immediately transferred to the NICU and was treated with antibiotics and a blood transfusion. Jackson remained in the Crouse NICU for the next five weeks before being transferred to a NICU closer to their home. The Hunters were able to bring Jackson home on August 23, 10 weeks after Karen's



water broke. "All the NICU nurses were wonderful," Karen said.

"I was by Jackson's bedside at least eight hours every day. We were away from home; it was a very challenging time. But the doctors and nurses were so supportive and kind and made us comfortable and confident in Jackson's treatment."

"Even in such a trying time, we had such a great experience," Ryan added.

"The NICU nurses decorated and hung a sign for Jackson on his isolette. Dr. Gross and all the staff were so kind. They went above and beyond, not just as healthcare professionals but as caring people."

Now, Jackson is a happy and healthy 4-year-old boy, and Karen and Ryan are forever grateful to the medical staff at Crouse Hospital. They choose to give back to the hospital by supporting the Crouse Health Foundation.

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**CROUSE HEALTH FOUNDATION**



# THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTATE PLANNING

**L**ive well, leave well. Plan your estate for your loved ones - and plan your legacy for yourself.

Sadly, there are far too many people, of all ages and from all walks of life, who haven't made an estate plan yet. Some think youth will protect them from the need for a will. Others think estate plans are only for the rich and famous. Many just don't think about it at all. But the truth is, estate planning is critical for all of us - for our families and loved ones, for the charities we support, and for our own peace of mind. Don't have an estate plan? Read on to see what could go wrong.

## **The state could get your assets**

Without a will, the court will decide how to disburse your assets. Of course, the court doesn't know (or care) about your wishes for family and loved ones, or that you want to remember a few of your favorite charities in your will. And in some places, if you don't have any living relatives, your entire estate could go to the state.

## **The court will appoint an executor**

Without a will, the court will select someone to handle your estate during probate. You may have selected a family member or close friend to handle this responsibly, but the court won't know (or care) about that.

## **The court will rehome your children**

Without a will, the court will choose a guardian for your minor children. (Surely they'll make a responsible, informed decision ... right?)

## **The state will get extra tax dollars**

Without a will, the estate tax dollars that the government collects will be used for, well ... anything the government chooses. (Hint: they're probably not helping out your favorite charities.)

## **One Last Thing**

Without a will, your grieving loved ones will face the responsibility and expense of untangling your unnecessarily complicated affairs while also speculating about your gift intentions - because, without a will, they'll have to guess. This happens quite often and can create a painful mess.

Clearly, there are important reasons to have a will. Sure, it takes a little work, but it's a lot easier than most people realize.

People often get nervous about meeting with an attorney. Many worry about the expense. But an attorney specializing in wills and estate planning is exactly the right person to help you accomplish your goals and protect your family. And the peace of mind you'll experience from a thoughtfully prepared will is well worth the effort.

Writing a will is far too important a task to delay - for you, for your loved ones, and for your favorite charities. Yet over 60 percent of Americans die without one. Please don't be one of them. Meet with a lawyer. It's easier than you think.





# CROUSE HISTORY - A LOOK BACK AT 1983

In the Spring of 1983, "A Commitment to Excellence" was selected as the theme of the original endowment fund campaign at what was then called Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital.

Initially, the campaign was created to establish a fund so the hospital would be able to use the interest earned from invested principal to purchase medical equipment. The goal was set at \$5 million. By the fall of 1983, more than half of the original goal was reached through donations from the medical staff, employees, foundation and hospital boards, auxiliary, and nursing school alumni of Crouse.

What was once simply going to be a campaign to raise money for medical equipment, became the establishment of what we now know as our Crouse Health Foundation Endowment Fund.

Today the fund has a market value of almost \$31 million. The principal of the fund remains untouched, while a portion of the investment income earned annually is given to Crouse Hospital.

Investment income disbursements began in 1988, and monies awarded in support of the hospital to date total almost \$34 million.



In 2022, the Foundation's Board of Trustees allocated more than \$1.3 million in investment income earned by the Endowment Fund, distributed through more than 50 grants for various programs and services of the hospital.

Because an endowment gift will be invested permanently, it can serve as a permanent tribute to the donor and extend the donor's values for future generations. Your donation today will help ensure the viability of Crouse to care for your family for generations to come.

## GRATEFUL TO GIVE *continued from Page 1*

"We're fortunate to be in a position to give," Ryan said. "So many people have similar - or more challenging - stories and experiences. We want to help ensure the great people at Crouse can continue to provide their first-rate services today and to future generations."

Karen and Ryan make annual donations to Crouse and contribute to the Crouse Classic Golf Tournament every July. "It's a great opportunity to return to Syracuse and spend time with family, friends and the fine folks at Crouse and the Foundation," Ryan shared.

Last year, Karen and Ryan also welcomed Jackson's brother, Grayson, to the family. In their spare time, the Hunters love to travel, play and coach kickball and volunteer for the parents' association at Jackson's preschool.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to give



Karen, Grayson, Jackson and Ryan back," Ryan said. "To the extent you can, you should. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference. We're proud to share our time, our resources, our story - anything we can to support the exceptional services Crouse Health Foundation provides for the communities of upstate New York."

# 25 DOCUMENTS YOU NEED TO KEEP IN ONE PLACE

**P**lan your estate for those you love and leave a legacy, not a mess.

## The Essentials

Will  
Letter of Instruction  
Trust Documents  
Financial Power of Attorney (POA)

## Marriage and Divorce

Marriage License  
Divorce Papers  
Military Documents (DD214)



## Health-Care Confidential

Personals and Family Medical History  
Durable Health-Care Power of Attorney  
Authorization to Release Health-Care Information  
Living Will  
Do-Not-Resuscitate Order

## Proof of Ownership

Housing, Land and Cemetery Deeds  
Escrow Mortgage Accounts  
Proof of Loans Made and Debts Owed  
Vehicle Titles  
Stock Certificates, Savings Bonds and Brokerage Accounts  
Partnership and Corporate Operating Agreements  
Tax Returns

## Life Insurance and Retirement

Life-Insurance Policies  
Individual Retirement Accounts  
401(k) Accounts  
Pension Documents  
Annuity Contracts

## Bank Accounts/Social Media

List of Bank Accounts  
List of all User Names and Passwords  
List of Safe-Deposit Boxes

## MORE INFORMATION

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

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