

HOW TO CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Valpo Couple Uses IRA to Make a 'Forever' Gift

For Barb Regnitz, making a charitable gift from her IRA made so much sense. "I'm a financial advisor and I'm also interested in giving back. Giving a percentage of my IRA to the Foundation at my death means that I can support charity forever in a tax efficient way," said Regnitz.

THE ECHO SOCIETY

By making a planned or estate gift to the Foundation, Barb and Tim Regnitz have become members of the Foundation's Echo Society. Just as an echo is a lasting sound, the Echo Society is a way for people to leave a lasting legacy.

"Perhaps in my parents' generation, the thought was to leave every penny to your kids at your death. But, in many cases, including my own, the children are successful and it's easy to peel off 10 percent or more to support charity," said Regnitz. Barb and Tim Regnitz moved to Porter County less than four years ago, relocating from the Schaumburg area. "We've quickly come to appreciate the Porter County community and wanted to contribute to it," explained Regnitz.

"We love the idea of leaving funds into an endowment rather than something that's going to just last a short time like an inheritance," said Regnitz. "We also like the idea of leaving the funds to the Foundation so that people who have a pulse on the needs of the community will decide

how our legacy will be used," she said. "We plan to live for a very long time and who knows in 30 or 50 years what the needs of our community might be?"

WHY AN IRA?

As a financial advisor, Barb Regnitz explains the benefit of giving to charity with IRA funds: "If a human beneficiary takes money out of an IRA, they're going to be taxed on those funds based on their income tax bracket. But, if a charity receives a gift from IRA funds, the charity is tax exempt. So your money goes further when given to a charity," she explains.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to charity, but this one was as simple as adding the Foundation as a beneficiary on the IRA, without the need to restructure the couple's estate plan. "Now that we've made these plans, I realize that it's important to have these conversations with clients and with estate planners. It was so easy to make a lasting gift," she said.

"We are honored that Barb and Tim have chosen the Foundation to



Barb and Tim Regnitz have become members of the Foundation's Echo Society by making a planned gift of a portion of their IRA fund.

help them get the most out of their generosity. We appreciate that they want to do something special for the community," said Bill Higbie, President & CEO of the Porter County Community Foundation.

TO LEARN MORE

To find out how to create a lasting gift in a tax efficient way, contact your professional advisor or the Porter County Community Foundation at 219-465-0294.

DOUBLING YOUR DOLLARS

Matching Grant Program Gives Nonprofits \$1 for \$1 to Build Endowments

Your charitable dollars can go twice as far through a matching grant program designed to help build endowments for Porter County nonprofit organizations. Participating nonprofit organizations will receive an additional \$1 from the Foundation for every \$1 they raise in endowment funds through March 31, 2018. "The Foundation is committed to helping nonprofit organizations maximize the resources available to help them do their work, which is so important to our community. Building a permanent endowment fund has a long term impact on that work and, in turn, on Porter County," said Bill Higbie, Foundation President and CEO.

"Every day we fight the challenge of budget and income, yet this program helps ensure that the Duneland Y will be here for many years," said Dave Kasarda, CEO of the Duneland Family YMCA. "We're also excited that this campaign has opened up discussions among our supporters about planned giving, which has led to the birth of a planned giving club," said Kasarda. "We're grateful to the Foundation for the funding as well as the training."

The idea of an endowment similarly appealed to Shirley Heinze Land Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring significant natural areas in northwest Indiana. "We're in the business of perpetuity. We make sure we are protecting lands, not just for the next decade or 50 years, but it's our obligation to protect them and maintain their biodiversity into the future. Endowment building is becoming a necessary and larger part of our focus," said Kristopher Krouse, Executive Director for Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

Another participating organization, the Historical Society of Ogden Dunes, had never actively pursued fundraising in the past. "The matching grant campaign has been exciting for us. It has provided us with an incentive to get involved in fundraising, which is something we didn't have the experience or the staff to do before," said Richard Meister, President of the Historical Society of Ogden Dunes. "This opportunity will really have lasting benefits to our organization and to the Ogden Dunes community," he said.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

1. Contact the organization(s) you wish to support (a list accompanies this story).
2. Each \$1 you contribute to a qualifying endowment fund will be matched with an additional \$1 from the Porter County Community Foundation.
3. Because the program lasts until March 31, 2018, you may structure your gift so that you can realize tax benefits for both 2017 and 2018.

The Foundation is committed to helping nonprofit organizations maximize the resources available to help them do their work, which is so important to our community.

Bill Higbie,
Foundation President and CEO



PARTICIPATING NONPROFITS

The following nonprofit organizations are participating in the Foundation's matching grant program. Contact the organizations to find out how you can give:

AAUW Valparaiso Affiliate
Boys & Girls Clubs of Porter County
Call-A-Ride, Inc.
Duneland Family YMCA
Every Child Ministries
Frontline Foundations Inc.
Gabriel's Horn
Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana
Historical Society of Ogden Dunes
Housing Opportunities
Immanuel Lutheran School
Memorial Opera House
Opportunity Enterprises
Pines Village Retirement Communities
Portage Township Live Entertainment Association
Portage Township YMCA
Porter County PACT
Porter County Parks Foundation
Reins of Life, Inc.
Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Taltree Arboretum
United Way of Porter County
Valparaiso Family YMCA
Valparaiso Parks & Recreation Foundation

YOUR CENTER FOR

Community Philanthropy

More than half of our new home at 1401 Calumet Avenue in Valparaiso is a nonprofit conference center, available to any 501(c)(3) organization in Porter County. The space is flexible enough to host gatherings from small groups around a table all the way up to 100 people in theater seating. Spaces include audio-visual equipment and all community rooms are ADA accessible.

"The conference center has experienced active use since opening last June," said Brenda Sheetz, Foundation Vice President. "The number of meetings being held here underscores the need for such a resource. Having the Center is yet another example of the power of community philanthropy."



Center for Community Philanthropy Usage since opening June 1, 2016



BILL HIGBIE
President & CEO

BRENDA SHEETZ
Vice President

ERYN LEONHARD
Communications
& Marketing Coordinator

KIM KILANDER
Administrative Assistant

KATHLEEN KOENIG
Receptionist

Kim Abbett
Community Volunteer

Andrew Arnold
Precision Control Systems

Jan Barsophy
HealthCare Management, LLC

Rick Calinski
NIPSCO

Stephanie Gerdes
Centier Bank

Minakshi Ghuman
REMAX Pace Realty

Carol Hall
Berglund Construction

John Hannon
Great Lakes Engineering

David Hollenbeck
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Joe Jaskowiak
Hoepfner, Wagner & Evans

Stephanie Jones
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Geoff Laciak
Laciak Accountancy Group

Jon Leetz
Indiana Beverage

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Desila Rosetti
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Gregory Sobkowski
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Spero Valavanis
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Matt Vessely
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All A Board!

The new year has brought new leadership to the Porter County Community Foundation.

WE WELCOME

Ralph Neff, Chair

Neff joined the Board in 2008 and has served on the Governance Committee, Executive Committee and Facilities Committee. Neff is Vice President of Mechanical Concepts, Inc.



John Walsh, Vice Chair

Walsh joined the Board in 2013 and has served on the Campaign Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Governance Committee. Walsh is President of Heat Wagon, Inc.



IN GRATITUDE

A special thanks to outgoing Chair Spero Valavanis whose guidance as Chair was invaluable during the past two years as the Foundation created the Center for Community Philanthropy and transitioned leadership. He will continue to serve on the board. The Foundation wishes to thank outgoing board members Jack Felton, Laura Campbell, Katherine Wehling, and Laura Elliott.



It's the Annual Meeting!

Join Us at the Expo Center on May 31st

The Porter County Community Foundation will hold its Annual Meeting on May 31st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Porter County Expo Center. Highlights will include the presentation of awards to special people who make Porter County a better place for all, along with the introduction of new members to the Foundation's Echo Society.

To RSVP

The annual meeting is open to all. To reserve your seat(s), call the Foundation at 219-465-0294.

JOIN THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR

SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

CENTRAL PARK PLAZA VALPARAISO
AUGUST 2, 2017 - 7:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION

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We've Simplified our Website Address!

Earlier this year, the Foundation simplified the website address to www.pccf.gives to make it easier to find us on the web and to better reflect our mission of inspiring giving. Note that our e-mail addresses reflect the change as well, using our first names followed by @pccf.gives (Bill Higbie is available at bill@pccf.gives, for instance). We hope you'll visit us online (and in person!) often.

www.pccf.gives