

## Help Keep Our Residents Safe and Secure



Niagara Lutheran's 2010 *Leadership Council* campaign is focused on raising funds for the installation of an automated fire protection sprinkler system in the Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center (NLHRC) in Buffalo, which will greatly increase the chances of survival for our residents, visiting family members, staff, and volunteers in case of fire.

Every one of the 18 worst nursing home fires since 1970 happened in a nursing home without a sprinkler system, and those fires killed more than 200 people. To date, there has

*“I like to think God rewarded my Dad for his good life by letting him spend his last days at the Niagara Lutheran Home.”*

- Margie Rieske, Seekonk, MA

### Charitable Giving Options That Provide You With Income

A charitable gift annuity will provide an income tax deduction and can begin actually paying you income, now or in the future. Younger people, or those who do not need additional income now,

may want to consider a deferred payment gift annuity that will produce a larger current income tax deduction.

Individuals who only need income for a few years (until retirement accounts, deferred compensation, or other assets become available) may want to

consider a charitable remainder trust. Your financial advisor can help you decide which charitable giving option best suits your goals and situation.



never been a multiple-fatality fire in a nursing home with a sprinkler system. Experts say that sprinkler systems are the single most effective fire protection step long-term care facilities can take, decreasing the chance of fire-related deaths by 82%. Unfortunately, such protection comes at a high price, as the cost of installing a sprinkler system in NLHRC will be over \$900,000.

NLHRC has been caring for Buffalo's elderly and infirm who need end-of-life care, skilled nursing, and rehabilitation since 1956. This mission of service could come to an end unless we install a sprinkler system, because such systems will likely be federally-mandated for all nursing homes in years to come. Without sprinklers, the future of one of the last high-quality senior care options in the city would be in jeopardy, and 173 residents could lose their home.

Niagara Lutheran's *Leadership Council* consists of a group of caring, generous people who help our residents by making annual gifts of \$500 or more. For information on how you can help keep our residents safe and secure, please contact the Foundation at 716-886-4377.

## What Is Legacies for Life?

*Legacies for Life* is a special program that recognizes and honors generous friends who have decided to offer a planned gift (also called a legacy gift), through provisions in a will, trust, insurance policy or individual retirement plan. *Legacies for Life* provides an excellent opportunity for you to leave a legacy of your own. As a supporter of the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation's mission, we would be very pleased to work with you to make arrangements that work best for you and your family.

During the year, a number of appreciation activities will be planned for our current membership. Our newsletter, Annual *Legacies for Life* Benefactors Dinner, recognition boards, and wealth management seminars are among these activities.

## Bequests – the Preferred Choice

*Did you know that bequests are still the preferred planned legacy gift?* It's because they are easy to understand, simple to arrange, and you don't have to be wealthy. They are also *revocable* in case you change your mind or need access to these funds for whatever reason. It's an ideal choice for seniors who want to give, but are worried about outliving their retirement funds.

The rewards of offering a legacy gift are many; you can guarantee security for yourself and your loved ones, support

charitable organizations of importance to you, and reap tremendous financial and tax benefits.

Learn more about how you can help others beyond your lifetime, while also providing for your heirs. For more information on bequests and other planned giving options, please contact the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation at 716-886-4377.



*“Daily we saw Dad receive tender, compassionate care from people who seemed to genuinely care about him, as a person, and about us as his family.”*

- Elizabeth Seibel, Akron, NY

## When to Review Your Will

Be sure to review your will every five years, or whenever you...

- Change your mind about who is to receive an inheritance or charitable gift
- Wish to reallocate among recipients of inheritances and charitable gifts
- Become married or divorced, or have a new partner
- Purchase real property located in another state or country
- Experience a significant increase or decrease in net worth or business ownership
- Sell an important asset (real estate, or business interest)
- Have a baby, stepchild or grandchild
- Experience serious declines in health
- Retire from your usual employment
- Hear that the U.S. Congress or state legislature changed the gift and estate tax laws



## Remembering the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation in Your Will

Bequests for the benefit of the Niagara Lutheran Health System should be made to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation, which accepts, manages, and distributes gifts on behalf of the Niagara Lutheran Health System. The following sample bequest language will ensure that your gift directly benefits the Niagara Lutheran Health System community for the purpose you specify.

*“I give, devise, and bequest the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation, 64 Hager St., Buffalo, NY 14208 to be used or disposed of as its Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate.”*

If you would like to restrict your gift to a particular endeavor or area, the Foundation would be pleased to work with you or your legal advisor on the specific language to ensure that your gift can and will be used as you intend.

# Legacies for Life

*Caring Beyond Your Lifetime*

**Legacies for Life** recognizes generous benefactors who have arranged for a gift to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation via a will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy.

We extend our highest regard and sincere thanks to the following benefactors who have notified us of their **Legacies for Life** intentions. *Deep appreciation is also felt for the deceased benefactors whose Legacies for Life gifts have been received. Their names are listed below in italics.*

Anonymous – (7)  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard R. Acker  
*Ms. Geraldine K. Allenbach*  
*Mrs. Olga M. Arle*  
Mr. & Mrs. Jurgen A. Arndt  
*Mr. Thomas J. Arrigo*  
*Mr. Melvin Becker*  
*Mr. Philip A. Becker*  
*Mr. Arthur H. Beitz Sr.*  
Mr. Richard Beitz  
*Ms. Irma C. Belling*  
Mrs. Ola F. Benzee  
*Mr. Erwin A. Brese*  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Brese  
*Mr. Donald L. Broecker*  
Ms. Gail M. Brown  
*Mrs. Eleanor Walker Craw*  
Mr. Norman Diefenbach  
*Ms. Maxine B. Ehrman*  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Eising  
*Mrs. Ida C. Ewald*  
*Mr. William Fahlbusch*  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence A. Fenske  
*Mrs. Nordena B. Forster*  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Garman  
*Mrs. Allison J. Gaudy*  
*Mrs. Ruth H. Geiger*  
*Mr. Edward H. Geisendorf*  
*Mrs. Helen C. Goellner*  
Mr. Gerald K. Grabau  
Mrs. Raymond F. Groth  
Mr. Calvin J. Haller  
*Mr. Alfred G. Hamann*  
*Ms. Elsie E. Hamann*  
Ms. Catherine A. Hamberger  
Mr. Fred E. & *Mrs. Betty L. Harbart*  
*Ms. Oneida M. Harder*  
*Mrs. Irma M. Hasler*  
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*Mrs. Jean V. Heidenburg*  
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Mrs. Betty C. Hochhauser  
*Mrs. Alice M. Hoffman*  
*Mrs. Marjorie B. Holls*  
*Mrs. Alice M. Holmlund*  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. James  
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Mr. Joseph J. Joller  
*Mrs. Sylvia C. Kamp*  
Mrs. Doris L. Kaushagen  
Mrs. Jane B. Kinkead  
*Mr. Adam J. Kessler*  
*Mr. Andrew W. Klein*  
*Mr. Julius J. Klein*  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Kleinmann  
*Ms. Freda A. Klump*  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Kowalczyk  
*Mrs. Margaret A. Lambert*  
*Mrs. Gladys S. Lang*  
The Rev. Carol L. Lankes  
Ms. Eleanor Laske  
Mrs. Sandra J. Lau  
Mrs. Ethel M. Ludwig  
*Mrs. Norma MacKenzie*  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Markoff  
Mrs. Alberta E. Matesick  
Mr. & Mrs. David E. McMullen  
Mr. Arthur & Mrs. Evelyn Menge  
The Rev. & Mrs. Paul R. Mertzluft  
*Mr. William P. Meissner*  
Mrs. Martha S. Muck  
Ms. Ruth E. Ochs  
*Mrs. Gunda Pfuesser*  
Ms. Dorothy Ponter  
*Mrs. Kathleen A. Recktenwalt*  
Mrs. Emily S. Renn  
*Mrs. Marion L. Robert*  
*Ms. Margaret F. Rofot*  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ronald  
Mrs. Marjorie L. Roth  
Ms. Virginia F. Rusk

Mr. Samuel J. Savarino  
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*Mr. & Mrs. Clifford W. Scharf*  
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Mrs. June R. Schillinger  
*Dr. Martha C. Schmidt*  
Mr. Donald A. Scholz  
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Mrs. Doris C. Snyder  
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Ms. Alice M. Szmanda  
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*Mrs. Mildred W. Todenhagen*  
*Mrs. Lulu Turks*  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Vahue  
*Mrs. Robert A. Walter*  
*Mrs. Lavina Weber*  
*Mr. Alvin C. Weinreber*  
*Mrs. Gartley Weller*  
The Rev. & Mrs. Robert A. Wendelin  
*Ms. Gertrude J. Weyland*  
*Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler*  
*Ms. Blanche S. Williams*  
*Mr. Warren & Mrs. Suzanne Swanson-Wittek*  
Mrs. Herta A. Wittkugel  
*Mrs. Vera M. Wolpert*  
Mr. & Mrs. Laurence H. Woodward  
*Mrs. Suzannah M. Woolcutt*  
Mr. Jeffrey L. Yates  
*Mr. & Mrs. Gustav M. Zimmer*  
*Mrs. Eleanor B. Zittel*

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Legacies for Life  
*Caring Beyond Your Lifetime*

- NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION -  
- NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME & REHABILITATION CENTER -  
- LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME -  
- GREENFIELD HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER -  
- GREENFIELD MANOR & COURT -



# Legacies for Life

2010 Issue 9

PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

## How Your Gift Helps

- ♥ Gifts help us reduce pain and suffering for our residents and loved ones.
- ♥ Gifts help us provide equipment and furnishings that otherwise would not be purchased.
- ♥ Gifts provide for a variety of life enrichment programs for our residents and their loved ones.
- ♥ Gifts assist with the recruitment and retention of top quality staff and help us provide for recognition of our invaluable volunteers.
- ♥ Gifts provide training opportunities and scholarships for outstanding caregivers.
- ♥ Gifts strengthen our ability to meet today's needs and enhance our capacity to plan for the future of eldercare service in the community.

## Convert Traditional IRA's to Roth IRA's and Enjoy Significant Tax Advantages in 2010

In 2010, the \$100,000 adjusted gross income limitation for converting a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA no longer applies. This means that, regardless of income level, you can now convert a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.



The amount converted from a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is subject to ordinary income tax. Taxpayers will have the option of spreading the federal taxes owed on the Roth IRA conversion equally over 2011 and 2012.

**How does making a charitable gift help those who convert to a Roth IRA?**

If you choose to take advantage of this opportunity, you could incur significant taxes because of the conversion, but a charitable gift to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation can help you offset those taxes.

**What are the benefits of converting a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA?**

Roth IRA's differ from Traditional IRA's in several crucial ways. While you don't get a tax deduction for making a contribution to a Roth IRA, those contributions grow without taxes and you don't have to pay any tax upon withdrawal in retirement. Other benefits to a Roth IRA:

- Distributions are income-tax free to you and your heirs.
- There are no required withdrawals (no "minimum distributions") after age 70½.
- Contributions are allowed after age 70½ for those who meet the income requirements.

**Who might be a good candidate to convert to a Roth IRA?**

You might consider this option if you:

- Do not expect to be in a significantly lower tax bracket following retirement
- Do not anticipate needing to use any funds from the Roth IRA until several years in the future
- Prefer to forego distributions so the retirement account can grow tax-free for the benefit of heirs.

The tax liability from the conversion may be reduced by making outright and deferred gifts to charities such as the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation. Charitable tax deductions carried over from previous years may be applied to offset some of the taxes due on the conversion. This might also be an ideal time to:

- Make a new gift
- Pre-pay a charitable pledge (bundle several years of gifts in 2010)

By accelerating your giving and making as many gifts as possible in the year you make the conversion, you will maximize your tax savings. For example, if you wish to convert a Traditional IRA valued at \$50,000 and normally make charitable contributions of \$10,000 per year, you could accelerate five years' worth of future gifts to equal the amount you are converting to a Roth IRA to offset the tax liability resulting from the conversion.



To learn more about how to take advantage of this new opportunity for tax savings, please contact David McMullen at the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation (telephone: 716-886-4377, e-mail: [dmcullen@niagaralutheran.org](mailto:dmcullen@niagaralutheran.org)).

## Our Niagara Lutheran Health System Mission

*Our mission is to provide for the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the individuals we serve, in a Christian environment.*

OUR MISSION