Planned Giving

The St. Ignatius Legacy Society was established to recognize and honor benefactors who have created personal legacies at Marquette through an estate provision or planned gift. These individuals have demonstrated their commitment to the future of the university through gifts that preserve the tradition of excellence at Marquette.

The generosity of St. Ignatius Legacy Society members makes an enduring impact on the university and continues an important legacy of accomplishment. Members believe that leaving a planned gift to Marquette is an important way of supporting its unique mission.

A planned gift provides an important opportunity to honor a loved one, an inspiring professor or a field of study that has had a significant impact on your life. You can create a legacy that makes an impact on your life. You can create a legacy that

can be passed on to future generations.

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Program Endowments
Create a Lasting Legacy

Laverne (Reichow) Franzoi Johnson "had great admiration" for her former Law School professor, Justice E. Harold Hallows, according to her obituary. And she worked tirelessly to honor him at the university they both held so dear — their alma mater, Marquette University.

Laverne, Bus Ad ’43, Law ’46, was the editor of the Marquette Law Review and was a founding partner of the law firm Franzoi & Franzoi, S.C., practicing law from 1948 until her health made it unfeasible. To honor Justice Hallows’ contributions to the Law School and the Wisconsin judicial system, Laverne personally supported an endowed Law School scholarship and, in 2001, spearheaded a renovation of one of the Law School’s classrooms by raising funds and organizing the construction.

After her death in 2002, the university received another generous gift from her, this one from her estate, designated to create the E. Harold Hallows Lecture Series. The goal of the annual Law School speaker series is to foster dialogue among distinguished members of the judiciary, their colleagues, and future colleagues in the bar and the academy. Recent speakers include U.S. Court of Appeals Judges Brett M. Kavanaugh and Paul J. Watford.
“Motivations have many parents,” says Frank Rotta. “Gratitude for providing a safe environment” at a difficult time in his life is just one of those that inspired Frank to give back to Marquette University by making a planned gift.

Having enrolled in Marquette’s College of Engineering in the fall of 1952, Frank transferred the following year to the College of Journalism, which he attended for two more years before leaving to join the Army.

“After three years in the service, now married with one child, I resumed attendance at Marquette, working full time at an auto factory and going to school part time during the day,” he recalls.

Finally graduating in 1961, Frank spent 30 years building a successful public relations career. But he continued to have personal struggles. In 1983, he reached a breaking point and sought professional help, eventually experiencing healing along with a spiritual awakening.

“In this entry into reality, it became obvious to me that the most important aspect of my life was my relationship with God on the day I die,” Frank says. “This initial acknowledgement has developed into an ever-growing relationship with God and the peace I enjoy today.”

Supporting Marquette with Retirement Funds

As a nonprofit organization, Marquette is not taxed upon receiving an IRA or other retirement plan assets. If you designate the university as a beneficiary, we will benefit from the full value of your gift and your estate also will benefit from an estate-tax charitable deduction for the gift. Though the donated amount will be included in your taxable estate, your estate will receive a deduction for the amount inherited by the designated charity, resulting in an offset of the estate taxes.

Because income taxes and estate taxes may substantially diminish an inheritance, you may want to consider leaving your heirs other assets, such as real estate and stock, and give your retirement assets to a charitable organization such as Marquette.

Your retirement assets may be easily transferred to Marquette by completing a beneficiary designation form provided by your retirement fund plan manager. If you are thinking about making such a gift, be sure to first check with your retirement fund manager and tax professional. These professionals should be able to help you determine if it is in your best financial interest to gift your assets to a charity during your lifetime or if you should designate the charity as your beneficiary. They can also ensure your beneficiaries are protected as planned.

Years ago, Frank Rotta, Jour ’61, said giving back to Marquette University was easy.

“I planned to give back in my will,” he said. “But after a personal struggle, I realized giving back was even more important. Giving back is about more than providing a university with money. It’s about providing a benefit to the students of Marquette.”

Now, Frank’s act of giving back continues to benefit generations of Marquette students.

“I am very appreciative of all the work the University has been doing,” he says. “I am so pleased to see all the improvements in the facilities and programs, and the University continues to do a really good job.”

Decades later, Frank continues to feed his faith by participating in daily Mass, lecturing at Mass, attending annual retreats at Trappist monasteries and committing himself to the activities of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Frank’s faith also influenced his decision to give back to the university that offered him a “safe haven” during tumultuous years of his life. He named Marquette a beneficiary of his IRA and requested that his gift support the Theology Department. By designating Marquette as a beneficiary, the university benefits from the full value of Frank’s gift because his IRA assets will not be taxed at his death. His estate also will benefit from an estate-tax charitable deduction for the gift.

“Personally,” says Frank, “I designated the use of my donation to theology instruction because I trust it will be used to help Marquette students open their search for and continuously develop their personal relationship with God earlier in life than I did.”

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Paul J. Watford presented the 2014 E. Harold Hallows Lecture at Marquette University Law School.

Justice Hallows, Arts ’26, was a distinguished Marquette University Law School faculty member for 19 years and a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1958 until his retirement as chief justice in 1974. During his tenure on the Supreme Court, Justice Hallows made special contributions to the improvement of the judiciary, including the creation of its judicial education program.

Thanks to Laverne’s planned gift to the university, Justice Hallows’ legacy remains intact to inspire upcoming generations of Marquette University Law School students. An excerpt of the 2014 Hallows lecture by U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Paul J. Watford can be viewed online at marquette.edu in the spring 2015 issue of Marquette Lawyer.

If you’re interested in designating a planned gift to support a program of your choice, contact Kathryn Hofman at 414.288.0396 or kathryn.hofman@marquette.edu or visit our website at marquette.edu/plannedgiving. Your inquiry will be confidential and places you under no obligation.

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your interest in making a planned gift to Marquette University.