Beyond Taxes: Reflecting on Your Charitable Giving at Year-End

The Ocean Reef Foundation offers a great variety of options, including Donor Advised Funds as discussed in the following article, to assist the community with year-end charitable giving and invites the community to learn more at their new website www.orfound.org and/or visit or call the Cultural Center office at 367-4707 for help in creating a personalized solution to your individual charitable goals.

Charitable giving decisions are best made following thoughtful reflection. Yet inertia and tax deadlines can conspire to push the fulfillment of those good intentions to the end of the year, when they must compete with so much else for your attention.

Is there a better way? Consider the strategy of Kent and Susan Garlinghouse of Topeka, Kansas. For many years they have contributed appreciated securities at year-end to a donor advised fund at their local community foundation. Having met the tax deadline with the contribution, they can then put off the more challenging and rewarding part of the giving process – choosing recipients to recommend for grants and deciding how much each might receive – until later.

The fund allows donors to recommend grants throughout the year for charitable purposes. “That way, you can fit your donations into a program you’ve proactively decided upon rather than scurrying around trying to find a charity,” says Kent Garlinghouse.

The Garlinghouses sit down in April, and again in November, to work out the details of their advised giving program. “A lot of thought goes into it,” says Susan. Their planning, she says, “conveys to the groups we give to that we’re going to be there each year. It forces us to focus. And it helps us to have a good feeling about the gifts we are able to give.”

Shaping a giving program
A thoughtful giving program also can serve as a way to share your values with the rest of your family. When Chris Getman of New Haven, Conn., established a donor advised fund with his local community foundation he appointed his three grown daughters as advisors to the fund. “I receive the tax benefits, and my kids enjoy the pleasure and responsibilities of giving,” says Getman. His daughters, two of whom live in Wisconsin and the other in Atlanta, confer and select recipient organizations once a year. “The kids feel really good about the decisions they make together,” says Getman.

In shaping your own giv-
Hermann B. Stein

Hermann B. Stein, longtime resident of Ocean Reef, died on Nov. 14 at a nursing facility in Fort Myers. He was 86 years old.

Born in what later became East Germany, he came to the United States at the age of 4. He was a graduate of Cornell’s school of veterinary medicine. Upon graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Corp, became a captain and ferried army horses to Europe at the end of World War II. This was not a small feat, considering that 200 horses kept rolling around in the hull of the boat, more times than not.

He settled in Roslyn, Long Island, where he had his veterinary practice.

Hermann loved nature – he was even kind to mosquitoes! As a young man, he built his own canoe so that he could shoot steep rapids with his friends. In college, he excelled at boxing and polo.

He was a devoted musician. As a child, he played the violin and also sang in Cornell’s glee club. Ocean Reef residents often had the pleasure of hearing him sing at the Lounge – he was so good at getting everyone to join in a sing-along. A good time was always had by all.

Hermann leaves behind his sister, Ursula Blake Buie, niece Pamela Curatti (Jay), grandnephew and grandniece Jay. Marusa Judy, his devoted friend of many years, helped him overcome many health challenges of the last years. Hermann’s kind personality will be missed by all. He was a compassionate gentleman who was always ready to help family and friends. He indeed had a very big heart – and he loved Ocean Reef. It was his paradise. Cremation and interment will be in Fort Myers.

Equity Welcome Back Reception is Sunday

Don’t Forget to RSVP

All Ocean Reef Club Equity members are cordially invited to enjoy a complimentary celebration of the season ahead this Sunday, Nov. 22, from 6 – 8 p.m. in Town Hall. Live music, delicious food and beverage and Ocean Reef Club camaraderie will highlight the evening. If you have not done so already, please RSVP to Member Events Assistant Kella Olson by calling 305-367-5874.

Giving

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Giving program, spend some time thinking about what you want to accomplish. “Do you want to make an immediate impact with your gift, to feed someone today? Or do you want to look toward the future?” asks Susan Garlinghouse, who says she and Kent are “delayed gratification givers” who take a long-term view.

You may have both short and long-term goals. The following are a few of the things you might consider as you establish or refresh your giving plan in the New Year:

• Do you want to make one-time gifts or provide ongoing support to organizations?
• What degree of recognition and visibility would you prefer?
• Do you wish to focus on a single issue or several?
• Would you like to effect change on a local, regional or national level?
• How much family involvement do you desire?

Reflecting on your past history of giving and volunteer-