



The Cornerstone



Dear Cornerstone Society Members and Friends,

“I wish I could do more” is a phrase that has become all too common as we struggle with ways to respond to the problems we see around us. As I have visited friends of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, I hear about how each has family members or friends who have had some hard times this past year. From these stories, I have learned that we are strong, resilient and caring people.

LSSI also continues to be a strong, resilient and caring force in our state, doing more with less and looking for even more ways to make a difference. The financial support from The Cornerstone Foundation has never been more important in ensuring that services continue to be provided at this critical time. We could not do it without the help of our friends, so *thank you, thank you, thank you* for your faith in our work!

This issue of *The Cornerstone* includes an article on fostering philanthropy and how you can teach your children and grandchildren about the joys of giving. The profile of Trish and Harvey Welch also highlights the importance of childhood experiences in creating an environment where giving back is second nature.

Giving is a magical thing that warms the heart and makes the soul dance. There is a way that you can make a gift now and continue to receive an income stream for the rest of your life through a charitable gift annuity. This versatile gift planning option provides income that you cannot outlive, as you will see from the article inside.

Finally, I have included an article with suggestions on how to best use your income tax refund. Of course, giving a portion to your favorite charity is always a good idea.

Blessings and thanks to you for your generous hearts,
Susan Gilpin
Executive Director, The Cornerstone Foundation

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION
GOAL STATEMENT: Responding to the Gospel, The Cornerstone Foundation is the endowment that helps ensure the ministries and future of LSSI.

Celebrating
the spirit of
generosity and
ensuring
the future of
Lutheran
Social Services
of Illinois.

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Trish & Harvey Welch – A Life



Gifts from The Cornerstone Foundation help to bring joy to the children at LSSI's Head Start program in Rogers Park and other Chicago neighborhoods.

At an early age, Trish and Harvey Welch's life experiences helped them develop into the philanthropists they have become. Trish says that her family, which was in the restaurant business, was always involved in extending their Christmas celebration to include people in the community who had no place to go. Harvey explains that as he was growing up, his family included his four siblings and also three cousins who lived with them. "We would not have received any gifts at Christmas if it had not been for churches and civic organizations that always made sure our family had gifts," says Harvey.

Today, Trish and Harvey are very active in their southern Illinois community, and both agree that helping children is one of their foremost concerns. "During the recent economic downturn, the type of assistance people need has expanded," says Harvey. "We try to give to a number of organizations whose missions target specific needs."

Trish adds, "In our giving, we also look to help charities whose reach includes other communities inside and

outside of the United States."

Seeing firsthand where help is needed has continued to define Trish and Harvey's giving. Trish recalls that travels outside the United States, especially in Africa, have helped them to identify international efforts to support. Getting out and seeing firsthand how their gifts are helping to deliver services and compassionate care to those in need is key for both Trish and Harvey.

Harvey shares a story from his youth that helped to form his desire to give back to others. "Growing up, I had a good friend who came from a family that did not have financial worries

Helping children is one of Trish and Harvey

time of Giving



**Cornerstone Society
Members Trish and Harvey
Welch**

like my family did.” After a game of basketball with this friend, Harvey found himself the last one in the locker room after his friend departed. On the floor, in plain view was a \$5 bill, which Harvey picked up. After making inquiries about whether anyone

had lost the money, Harvey kept the money and has always felt that this was a gift from his friend who might have been too shy to give it directly to Harvey. Harvey explains, “This kindness has stayed with me and has taught me that giving anonymously can be its own reward.”

Harvey serves on the Board of Trustees for The Cornerstone Foundation, which oversees the endowment created from gifts in support of LSSI’s mission of service to our fellow Illinoisans. Both Trish and Harvey are Cornerstone Society members and have made a legacy gift to ensure that compassionate care continues to be provided to future generations.

Membership in The Cornerstone Society is open to all with generous hearts and the desire to share their earthly treasures in the care of others. For more information, please contact Susan Gilpin at 847/390-1464. ■

y’s foremost concerns.

CORNERSTONE LUNCHEONS

Celebrating the Work of Senior Protective Services



**Cornerstone Society Members Jean and Bill
Fleck attended the September 15th
Cornerstone Luncheon.**

At our September 15th Cornerstone Luncheon in Dixon, nearly 60 guests enjoyed a luncheon program that included a personal update from LSSI President Pastor Denver Bitner. As part of the luncheon, the Hallberg Award for Excellence was presented to our Senior Protective Services Program, which is dedicated to eliminating the many forms of abuse that can harm older adults.

At times, it was not easy to listen to the painful stories that were shared or look at the slides that were part of the presentation, but this work is integral to the welfare of older individuals and our communities. Senior Protective Services also reaches out to law enforcement, health care professionals and others to teach them how to recognize abuse.

Is Your Income Tax Refund Going to Good Use?

Thousands of taxpayers will find they're receiving refunds when they file their 2009 income tax returns. The average refund received in 2008 was \$2,413. If you're on the receiving end of a refund, what financially smart moves should you make with your apparent windfall?

- ◆ Use the refund to pay down outstanding credit card balances or other nondeductible loans. If you're a taxpayer in the 28% tax bracket, paying off the balance on a credit card that charges 18% interest is the same as finding an investment that pays 25%.

- ◆ If you haven't retired and have not been contributing the maximum to all available retirement plans, boost your contribution by the amount of your refund. That will allow the funds to grow tax-sheltered for 2010. In 2010, you can contribute up to \$5,000 in an IRA or \$16,500 in a 401(k) plan. Individuals age 50 and older may add an extra catch-up contribution of \$1,000 to IRAs or \$5,500 to 401(k)s.

- ◆ Make a gift to your favorite charity. Not only will this make you feel good, but you will also be entitled to a charitable deduction that may reduce the income taxes you owe for 2010.

When you meet with your tax adviser, ask about adjusting your withholding or estimated payments to reduce any refund on your 2010 return. As nice as a refund might seem, it's really just an interest-free loan of your money to the IRS.

Raising Philanthropic Children and Grandchildren

Of the many lessons parents impart to their children, one important one is often overlooked. Children are not born generous, but once introduced

to philanthropy, many discover the joy of sharing and become lifelong givers. How can you help younger family members embrace philanthropy?

- **Start young.** Many children are given allowances for helping with specific jobs around the house. Some parents require that children set aside a portion of their allowance for savings, allowing the child to spend the rest as he or she wants. Parents might ask the child to designate another portion of the allowance for "sharing" with a favorite cause or organization the child selects.

- **Offer a match.** Many companies match the charitable gifts made by employees up to a certain level each year. Families can do the same thing.

- **Lead by example.** Talk to your children or grandchildren about the organizations you support and why. Their choice of charities may differ, but the reasoning process will serve them well as they evaluate those causes deserving of their support.

- **Make your child a "partner" with charity.** Consider establishing a trust that pays charity for a period of time before assets are distributed to children (a charitable lead trust).

- **Include both children and charity in your estate plan.** A bequest is an excellent way to continue the support you provided during your lifetime. ■



Charitable Gift Annuity

Help Others and Receive Income You Can't Outlive

The charitable gift annuity is a unique plan for satisfying both philanthropic and financial needs. Yet, it's a remarkably simple plan: In exchange for a gift of cash or securities, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will pay you a certain fixed dollar annuity for the rest of your life. Or, if you wish, we will pay the annuity to another person for life ... or to you and another person for your respective lives. Tax benefits include a charitable tax deduction and partially tax-free income.

So where is the gift? After all life-time payments have been made, the remainder becomes available to support LSSI's ministry. This remainder amount is usually about half of the initial amount; so an annuity of \$25,000 will likely result in a gift of \$12,500 after all payments have been made.

The exact amount of the annuity will depend on your age, the size of your gift and whether there are other beneficiaries. In most cases, the annuity will be from 5% of the amount of the gift to as much as 9.5%.

Other gift annuity arrangements are possible as well. Indeed, one of the most attractive features of the gift annuity is its flexibility. Here are some examples for you to consider:

◆ Mr. Anderson, at age 55, makes a gift of \$15,000 for an annuity that will not start until he reaches age 65. Such an arrangement is called a deferred gift annuity and offers the donor extremely favorable tax benefits.

◆ Mr. Jackson makes a \$25,000 gift, and we agree to pay an annuity to him for his life and then to his wife for her life. The financial benefits from such an arrangement are substantial, and Mr. Jackson can have the immense personal satisfaction that comes from making a lifetime gift.

◆ Mrs. Dietrich creates a \$30,000 annuity for her parents. The annuity payments provide her parents with income they need and the portion that is taxable is paid by her parents at what is likely to be at a lower tax rate than it would be for Mrs. Dietrich.

The particular facts of each gift determine the extent of these advantages. Please contact Susan Gilpin at 847/390-1464 for a personalized illustration of how a gift annuity might work for you. ■

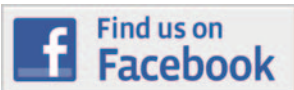
Examples of Single-Life Gift Annuity Rates

Age	Payout Rate	Age	Payout Rate	Age	Payout Rate	Age	Payout Rate
60	5.0%	68	5.5%	76	6.4%	84	7.9%
62	5.1%	70	5.7%	78	6.7%	86	8.3%
64	5.2%	72	5.9%	80	7.1%	88	8.9%
66	5.4%	74	6.1%	82	7.5%	90 +	9.5%



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

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Updates to Cornerstone Membership Directory

We acknowledge and welcome the following members of The Cornerstone Society who have included a gift to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois in their estate plans:

Anonymous Friends
Mr. David Peterson, Illinois City
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malm, Elgin

We also acknowledge, with gratitude, the following memorial gifts:

Estate of Alexander & Margaret Ramlose, Chicago
Estate of Eunice McGuire, Chicago
Estate of Marilyn Blum, Ashton
Estate of Reuben Kruggel, Rochelle
Estate of William C. Hansen, Chicago

UPCOMING CORNERSTONE SOCIETY Events

We hope that you'll join us for one of our upcoming luncheons to thank our Cornerstone Society members and lift up our ministry.

Spring 2010

Metropolitan Chicago Synod
(date and location to be announced)

Fall 2010

Central/Southern Synod
(date and location to be announced)

To learn more about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org

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