Giving As You Go

Irrevocable Insurance Gifts Leverage Impact

Patrick ’92 and Happy ’92 Von Dohlen of San Antonio were only 34 years old when they made an irrevocable $100,000 life insurance gift to the Texas A&M Foundation in 2004. “We weren’t financially well-off but were rich in gifts from God,” said Patrick Von Dohlen. They had five children, four of whom were on the ground, and one on the way. They couldn’t afford to write a check for a major gift, but they are fervent believers in “giving as you go.”

“We didn’t want to wait, because you never know how long you’ll have on this earth,” Von Dohlen said. “With a gift of life insurance we had the perfect tool that allowed us to give back in a significant way at a young age.”

Von Dohlen, who has an agricultural economics degree from Texas A&M and was executive officer of his outfit in the Corps of Cadets, is president of The Von Dohlen Knuffke Financial Group Inc. in San Antonio. His company provides financial planning for physicians.

He and Happy Von Dohlen, who earned both a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary education and a master’s in educational psychology from A&M, met in a summer history class. They both served on the Aggie Muster Committee and Student Government Association. Their first dates were to Aggie football games in 1991, and they got married in 1996. Happy taught special education and has created two educational board games to help teach children about money. Their family has grown to include five sons and three daughters, ages 2 to 13.

The Von Dohlen’s contribute $1,500 every year for 14 years to the Foundation to pay the premium. They receive an annual charitable tax deduction for these gifts.

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If you are in a 30 percent tax bracket, a $1,500 gift equates to about $1,000 net. By the time they have contributed $21,092, the Von Dohlens’ commitment will be complete and the policy death benefit value should grow from $100,000 to $120,000. In the end, their gift will equate to approximately $120,000 from a $21,092 contribution. Permanent life insurance makes a gift of this magnitude possible for nearly anyone.

The proceeds from the policy will fund the Happy ’92 & Patrick ’92 Von Dohlen Unity of Life Endowment, providing unrestricted support for future Aggies and encouraging lives in which values and beliefs are transparently integrated with behavior at home, at school, at work and at play.

“Texas A&M has opened many doors for us and provided the basis for many friendships” said Happy Von Dohlen. “We are proud Aggies and look forward to a lifetime of giving.”

Patrick believes A&M and the Corps changed his life by teaching him the virtues of friendship, loyalty, patriotism and leadership by serving others. “None of us are here forever, and by doing this we’ll have a greater chance that the A&M we know and love will develop more Aggies with traditional core values. The beauty of creating this gift when we were younger is that the premiums are affordable and we can enjoy the benefits of being a part of the A&M Legacy Society as Heritage Members. If we can do it, anybody can do it.” ★
How Do I Make a Life Insurance Gift?

Making a charitable gift of life insurance is a simple process, and doing so may allow you to provide a larger gift for Texas A&M University than you thought possible.

Three ways to make a life insurance gift:

- **Transfer ownership of an existing policy** and designate the Texas A&M Foundation as the beneficiary. You generally will receive a charitable income-tax deduction equal to the lesser of the policy’s value or your cost basis in the policy (usually the total amount of premiums paid). You will also reduce your taxable estate.

- **Purchase a new policy** with the Foundation as the owner and beneficiary. You will receive a charitable income-tax deduction for the gift, as well as for additional contributions to cover the annual premium payments.

- **Retain ownership and change the beneficiary designation** to the Texas A&M Foundation. Partial beneficiary designations, such as a specific percentage, offer another option.

If you would like to use the leverage of life insurance to provide a future endowment for Texas A&M, contact us and we will assist you and your insurance agent in the process. ★

From small things... ...grow big things!
Free Book Offers Estate Planning Tips

The Texas A&M Foundation Office of Gift Planning is pleased to offer you a free estate planning tool: *Provide & Protect*, by estate planning expert Charles Schultz J.D.

In this 276-page softcover book, Schultz walks you through important estate planning topics such as:

- Should I have a will or a trust?
- Who is the ideal guardian for my children?
- How can I preserve assets for loved ones?

The Office of Gift Planning will mail you this great estate planning tool, along with a complimentary Wills Planner Guide. Just return your completed reply card (attached to this newsletter), email a-throne@tamu.edu or call (800) 392-3310. ★

To discuss how a planned gift to the Texas A&M Foundation might benefit you, your family and Texas A&M University, please contact Will Fusselman ’95 in the Office of Gift Planning at w-fusselman@tamu.edu or at (800) 392-3310. He will describe how such plans work and provide personalized illustrations. ★
We’re Here to Help

☐ I am considering a charitable gift of life insurance. Please send me more information.

☐ I would like to receive the free book, Provide & Protect.

☐ I have not previously informed you, but I have included the Texas A&M Foundation in my estate plan and would like to become a Heritage Member.

Fold here and fasten with adhesive strip before mailing.

Name (please print) ________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

City, State, ZIP __________________________________________________

Telephone (area code & number) _________________________________

Email address ________________________________

Comments/special requests: _______________________________________

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All information is confidential.
Women, Wealth & Wisdom

A Financial & Estate Planning Event for Women of all Ages & Stages

Women today are an active financial force—earning, managing and distributing more wealth than ever before. According to the National Center for Women and Retirement Research, as many as nine of 10 women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives. That’s why it’s important that every woman take control of her financial and estate plans to ensure long-term security for herself and her loved ones.

Plan to attend Women, Wealth & Wisdom, our FREE financial and estate planning event, in College Station on May 18, 2012, to learn more about smart planning for the future.

This free conference, for women and by women, will be held in the newly renovated Memorial Student Center on the Texas A&M campus. Please contact Carrie Keller in the Office of Gift Planning at c-keller@tamu.edu or at (979) 845-8161 for more information. To reserve your space today visit giving.tamu.edu/womensevent. ★
Planned Gifts Send a Message

Gifts made through bequests, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and many other plans help create your legacy. Read inside to learn how you can support Texas A&M University with a planned gift.

- Find out more about using the leverage of life insurance to create your Aggie legacy.
- Read about Women, Wealth & Wisdom, a financial and estate planning event for women on May 18, 2012.
- Request Provide & Protect, a FREE book of estate planning tips.
- Contact the Texas A&M Foundation Office of Gift Planning to learn about gifts that help you, your family and A&M. ★

Information in Spirit of Sharing is not intended as legal or tax advice. This publication’s purpose is to provide general information. Spirit of Sharing is published by the Texas A&M Foundation, which manages major gifts and endowments for the benefit of Texas A&M University academics and student leadership.