



Elaine Patterson '76: Planning affords Flexibility

Long hours of conversation over dinner at Mather Hall were some of Elaine Patterson's most cherished memories during her time at Trinity. "There's no doubt those conversations helped me figure out who I wanted to be, what I wanted to do, where I wanted to go and gave me the emotional support I needed to keep moving forward."

Fast forward forty five years later, Elaine revels in some of that same camaraderie and companionship with fellow alumnae members in the Marjorie Butcher Circle. As Trinity's first alumnae-driven women's philanthropy effort, the group was formed to celebrate and encourage philanthropy amongst alumnae at Trinity College.

Upon reflection on her own personal philanthropy, she sees her outright giving and her

bequest intention as a way to pay it forward. "Generations of people before me donated to Trinity and helped it become the college that I wanted to attend. I've always felt a responsibility to make sure I continue that effort, to hold up my part of the bargain for future Trinity students. I was influenced by being at Trinity in the early years of coeducation."

When it came time to make decisions about estate planning, giving to education had always been a priority Elaine shared with her husband Gregg, so the decision to include Trinity was an easy one. Elaine also remarked on the flexibility of gift planning and the broad range of options to have an impact. "We were very happy to have a way to dedicate future funds to the college without risking funds we might need during our later years," she stated.

As an avid supporter of financial aid in her annual gifts and by way of her estate, Elaine says, "Trinity is still important to me because I've seen how Trinity has become a much better college and offers much more to students than in my time. I probably took Trinity for granted while I was there, but seeing it through the eyes of recent or current students makes me even more committed to the college's future."





Charitable Gift Annuity Provides Support to Trinity and Payments to You

The roller coaster of the markets this year have led many donors to review their investments. Donors who are contemplating a gift to Trinity but who are concerned about their income stream because of low interest rates may want to consider making a gift of appreciated stock in exchange for a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) can provide you and/or a loved one with a regular stream of payments while also allowing you make a generous charitable contribution to the college. A CGA is a simple agreement between you and Trinity in which the college promises to make fixed payments to one or two annuitants for life in exchange for your contribution of cash or securities. CGAs are easy to set up and the payments you receive are backed by the full resources of Trinity College. You also can claim a current income tax deduction for the value of your charitable contribution.

The annual payment is based on the gift amount and on the age(s) of the annuitant(s) at the time of the contribution and does not change, regardless of future market conditions. Your income tax charitable deduction will be calculated based upon the amount and timing of your contribution as well as the annuity amount and ages of the recipients.

The table below illustrates the results of a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity at various ages:

Age	Payment Rate	Annuity	Deduction
70	4.7%	\$470	\$3,652
75	5.4%	\$540	\$4,262
80	6.5%	\$650	\$4,721
85	7.6%	\$760	\$5,410
90	8.6%	\$860	\$6,227

* Note that the payment rate is based on a CGA with only one annuitant. A 2-life annuity will have a lower payout rate.

If you don't need the income right away you may wish to make the gift now but defer payments until a later date. Some donors have opted for this approach as they plan for retirement. Such a plan allows a donor to make the gift and receive the income tax charitable deduction during the donor's high income years, but defer the payments to a point in the future when income may be lower. This type of plan, known as a deferred charitable gift annuity provides a higher payout rate when the payments begin.

To learn more, please visit <https://legacy.trincoll.edu/cga>. For a personal illustration and to discuss the impact you would like to achieve at Trinity College, please contact Linda Minoff, Director of Gift Planning at linda.minoff@trincoll.edu or (413) 885-2656.

Your Loved Ones, Your Values, Your Legacy

Estate planning involves much more than simply deciding what to do with your assets. As you ponder the legacy you'd like to leave, you'll find you have many choices to make:

How do you wish to be remembered? What do you want future generations to know about you? When people speak about you, what do you want them to say? What core values or guiding principles do you wish to impart?

Whom do you want to influence or impact? The whole world? A handful of family members and close friends? One or more communities, near or far?

After answering these questions, consider what you can do now to help ensure that the legacy you envision will indeed be realized. Are there specific steps to be taken? Things that definitely should not be done?

You may decide it's sufficient simply to articulate particular values you hope that loved ones will internalize. An "ethical will," – a written, document or an audio, visual, or other electronic statement –

while not legally binding, may be morally persuasive for those who survive you.

Don't underestimate the influence inherent in the ways you provide for others. Whether tangible items (money, possessions, property) or intangible wisdom and values, you have a great deal of agency in creating your legacy and crafting your family narrative.

Finally, if charitable organizations are important to you and you wish to pass this value on to your heirs, consider establishing an endowed fund that bears your name and will have a lasting impact. Such a fund will reflect your values in perpetuity. There are many ways to create an endowed fund, including a simple bequest, or by naming Trinity as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy. You also can do so by making a gift in exchange for a charitable gift annuity or by establishing a current or testamentary charitable remainder trust. If you're curious about setting up an endowed fund at Trinity College, Linda Minoff can provide assistance. Contact her at linda.minoff@trincoll.edu to learn more about the options available to you.



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