

# Making *A Difference*

Twenty-fourth Edition • Spring 2016

## From the Foundation President



Recently, I read an article in Give & Take, the monthly newsletter published by The Sharpe Group, entitled “Charitable Giving: Good for Charities,

Good for Donors.” This article cites studies, which suggest “tis better to give than receive” is not just an adage, but a scientific fact. These studies report that it’s not just recipients that benefit from charitable gifts. Charitable giving also appears to be good for the health of the donor as well as the well-being of our communities. Giving to others is particularly effective for those suffering from mental and emotional conditions such as depression and anxiety. Ironically, a person’s self-esteem increases when shifting focus away from the self. Compassion increases a sense of connection to others. A strong social connection contributes to longer life expectancies, while genes associated with social connection code for immune function and inflammation.

I find great joy in thinking that the 2,004 donors, who contributed \$1,647,546 to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation last year, may be healthier and happier because they are generous people. I know their generosity has been good for the

Foundation as well as our residents, Lutheran Hospice patients and BeWell Home Services clients, whose lives have been impacted by their gifts.

The generous gifts from our donors certainly gave peace of mind to the 50 residents, hospice patients and clients that had their care subsidized in 2015 for they were able to receive the services they needed even though they could not afford to pay the full cost of that care.

Those gifts also made a difference in the quality of life for all of those served by Lutheran Homes as we spent almost \$700,000 to fund capital purchases, which included such items as vehicles for resident transportation, new furnishings, renovations and nurse call systems. Their lives were further enhanced by the \$200,000 in gifts we used to enhance program and services such as life enrichment, pastoral care and special projects.

Yes, giving is a good thing for the donor as well as the charity. And when you give a gift to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, it is good for our residents, hospice patients, and clients because your gifts will be used to make a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert G. Coon".

The Rev. Robert G. Coon  
President

## Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator recently announced that the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation has earned the coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

Receiving this “exceptional” rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest and most utilized independent evaluator of charities, differentiates Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation from our peers and demonstrates to the public we are worthy of their trust. As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, it is becoming even more important that donors know which charities can be counted on to help them achieve their charitable intent.



**Mission Statement** The mission of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation is to support the ministry of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina by enabling donors, who care about older adults and hospice patients, to achieve their philanthropic goals and by being a faithful steward of their gifts.



## Innkeeper Legacy Society

Friends of Lutheran Homes who make us aware of their plans to leave a legacy of care through a will, gift annuity, charitable trust, life insurance policy or retirement plan may remain anonymous or give permission for their names to be included on the roll of the Innkeeper Legacy Society. We are grateful for the following individuals and couples who have made the Foundation aware of their planned gifts:



## Grants Continue to Make a Difference

### Grants received since the last issue of Making a Difference include...

\$3,749 from the Lee Richard "Dick" and Helen Stockman Davis Fund at the InFaith Community Foundation for the Heritage at Lowman

\$428 from the Duane and Shirley Munn Player Gemar Fund at the InFaith Community Foundation for subsidized care at Franke at Seaside

\$5,000 from the Bartels Family Foundation to subsidize the care of those who need BeWell Home Services but cannot afford to pay the full cost

\$1,000 from the St. Luke Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund, Summerville, for subsidized care at Franke at Seaside

\$1,000 from the Mary Elizabeth Avinger Charitable Foundation for capital improvements at the Heritage at Lowman

\$5,000 from the Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation, Greenville, to subsidize the care of patients served by the Greenville Office of Lutheran Hospice needing financial assistance to pay for the cost of their care or fund their basic needs

\$5,000 from the Ernest and Kathryn Troutman Foundation to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation to be added to the Bob and Margaret Troutman Endowment Fund

Anonymous (7)  
One New Member  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Beck  
The Rev. H. Gene & Frances Beck  
Mr. & Mrs. Luther C. Boliek  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Bouknight  
Mrs. Kaye Bradley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark C. Buchanan  
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond S. Caughman  
The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Boyd F. Cook  
The Rev. & Mrs. Robert G. Coon  
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Joan Cope  
Mrs. Ann K. Dasher  
Ms. Kaye D. Derrick  
Ms. Denise L. Dickinsen  
Jim & Jewell Eanes

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Easter  
The Rev. Dr. Derald & Mrs. Vicky Edwards  
The Rev. Mary Mappus Finklea Jaime and Karen Fivecoat  
Mr. Duane J. Gemar  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin B. Hill, Jr.  
Mrs. Louise Hillard  
Mrs. Carolyn Hooker  
Mr. Parke B. Horton  
Ms. Marjorie A. Howarth  
Mrs. Barbara Keil  
Mrs. Marie Kleckley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark H. Lee  
CDR Steven M. Lofton, USN-Ret  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris S. Morton  
Ms. Dolly Nethercot  
Mr. Reuben C. Ott

The Rev. Sherry Owensby-Sikes, BCC  
The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Harold Park  
Dr. Donna Millar Potts & Dr. David Potts  
Mr. J. H. "Jack" Richardson, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Ryan, Jr.  
Mrs. Mary R. Schaeffer  
Mrs. Ned (Mary) Schall  
Mr. Walter A. Sigman, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Smyth, Jr.  
David and Susan Troutman (New Members)  
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Warren  
Dr. Sandra S. Watson  
Mr. Gerald E. White  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Yetter

Please call the Foundation at **800.756.9443** or use the attached envelope to tell us about your planned gift or receive information about establishing one.

## Special tax-free IRA gifts

For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.



In December, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation that retroactive extended the charitable IRA rollover for 2015 and made this

provision permanent for future years. A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs to one or more qualified charities such as the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation free from federal income tax each year. There may also be state income tax savings. Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift.

To make such gifts, it is important to have the gift amount distributed directly from an IRA to one or more qualified charities. For those with check writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make gifts directly from an IRA. Check with us, your IRA administrator or your tax advisor for more information.

## Jerry Zucker Charleston Ride for Hope

The Foundation recently received \$8,000 from the 2015 Jerry Zucker Charleston Ride for Hope. These funds will be used by Lutheran Hospice to provide care for cancer patients needing financial

assistance. Lutheran Hospice has been a beneficiary of this ride that raises funds to fight cancer since the ride's inception eight years ago.



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

**Thrivent Choice** encourages eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial donate portions of its charitable outreach funds each year. The amount that can be directed is based on a member's insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Thrivent Choice has

contributed \$23,443 to Lutheran Homes since the inception of the program.

If you are a Thrivent member, please go to [www.Thrivent.com/ThriventChoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/ThriventChoice) or call **800.847.4836** to direct your Choice Dollars to Lutheran Homes of South Carolina.

## Bank Drafts and Credit Card Payments

The Foundation can now accept one-time and recurring contributions through bank drafts and credit card payments. Please contact Melanie Gregg at [foundation@lhomes.org](mailto:foundation@lhomes.org) or **800.756.9443** for more information about these programs.



## Estates and Bequests

Gifts from estates and other planned giving instruments have played a vital role in the 100-year history of Lutheran Homes and its predecessor ministries. Since the last issue of this newsletter, the Foundation has received funds from planned gifts established by the following:

**Dorthea Nell Jones**  
for Franke at Seaside

**Nell W. Dickert**  
for the Heritage at Lowman

We are grateful that these faithful supporters chose to leave a legacy by naming one of our ministries as a beneficiary of a planned gift.

## Looking for a Unique Charitable Deduction?

The Foundation now accepts vehicles such as cars, vans, trucks and golf carts that are in good working condition to benefit the ministries of Lutheran Homes. All vehicle donations are accepted in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contact Melanie Gregg at [foundation@lhomes.org](mailto:foundation@lhomes.org) or **800.756.9443** for more information.



## Purpose Statement

*Making a Difference* is an official publication of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, Inc. designed to make donors and friends of Lutheran Homes aware of Foundation developments. Call Melanie Gregg at **800.756.9443** or email [foundation@lhomes.org](mailto:foundation@lhomes.org) if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

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## What is "Planned Giving"?



"Planned giving" is not a term one hears everyday--in fact, most people do not make "unplanned gifts" to charitable interests or to family and friends. All gifts, in effect, are planned gifts. This term,

however, is frequently used by many not for profit organizations to denote specific gift plans, which carry with them special benefits to the donor and to charity.

There are a variety of ways you can make a planned gift to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation and create a legacy. Several suggestions on how your charitable goals can be realized by making a planned gift are listed below.

### A Charitable Bequest in Your Will

A bequest is an ideal way to ensure that the charitable causes which are important to you and your family continue to be supported beyond your lifetime. You can designate a set amount or percentage of your estate, or leave your house or other asset. Bequests to the Foundation can create significant tax savings for your heirs.

### IRA or Retirement Plan Assets

You may designate the Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan. Since these plans are taxable to you during life, they are also taxable to your heirs at death. Including estate taxes, sometimes IRA's are taxed up to as much as 50%-75% of their value. This is an ideal asset to leave to charity as it will retain its full value and can be rolled over to charity with no tax consequences.

### Life Insurance

You can transfer ownership of a cash value policy during your lifetime and be eligible for an immediate tax deduction based on the policy's current value. Naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy can also be a valuable estate planning strategy.

Planning with ones resources often allows a donor to secure their own future while preparing to make a gift that will shape the lives of others. To learn more about one of the many options that may help you make a gift to the ministry of Lutheran Homes Foundation, please contact:

**Ernest Beck, CFRE**  
*Director of Planned Giving*  
**843.856.4718 • [ebeck@lhomes.org](mailto:ebeck@lhomes.org)**



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