

BEACON

Gift planning information and inspiration for the **Tufts community**



Spring 2018



A Message from Linda J. Dixon, J63, F99, University Gift Planning Chair

I'm delighted to introduce a new issue of *Beacon*, full of information you can use as you consider your future financial plans and your unique legacy to Tufts.

My own Tufts story began in the fall of 1959 when I arrived on campus for my freshman year. After decades as a proud alumna and volunteer with my Class of '63 and the Tufts University Alumni Association, I began a second chapter at Tufts in 1993 when I became secretary of the corporation within the Trustees' Office—a wonderful job I held for 19 years. I also went back to school and earned my second Tufts >>>

>>> degree, this time from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Today I have a new volunteer role as university gift planning chair for [Brighter World: The Campaign for Tufts](#), working with other volunteers and staff from each school to leverage the incredible opportunities of gift planning for the university we love.

Gift planning has bridged two parts of my life that are very dear to me: Tufts University, and my sister, Valerie, who was a devoted caregiver to our parents during the last years of their lives.

With the help of the Tufts' gift planning team, I established a trust that will provide income to Valerie and, later, a gift to Tufts University. It makes me very happy to know that I can leave something for Tufts and, with the same gift, offer support and care to Valerie, just as *she* did for our parents.

For many of us, gift planning completes the circle of caring. Whether a simple bequest in one's estate plans or an arrangement, like my trust, that meets multiple financial goals, there are truly gift planning options for everyone.

If you are a member of our legacy society, the [Charles Tufts Society](#), thank you for making Tufts a part of your plans. If you are new to planned giving, I hope you find useful information, and inspiration, in these pages.

The *Brighter World* campaign is a chance for all of us to deepen our connection to Tufts and reflect on the impact of Tufts in our lives. Thank you for reading *Beacon* and learning more about how we can create a brighter world, together!

With gratitude,



Linda J. Dixon, J63, F99

Gift Planning, in Plain English

In this issue of Beacon, we celebrate gifts established by individuals whose objectives included creating an income stream, tax savings, and a future contribution to Tufts. You'll find these terms called out in the stories that follow.

A [charitable gift annuity \(CGA\)](#) provides a lifetime of fixed income for one or two people (rates based on age). Payments can begin immediately or be deferred, resulting in a higher rate. CGAs may be funded with securities or cash.

A [charitable remainder trust \(CRT\)](#) allows donors to select a fixed or variable income, paid to one or more individuals. With a variable income stream, the beneficiary's income has the potential to grow over time as a hedge against inflation. Trusts may run for a term of years or the lives of the beneficiaries. CRTs may be funded with real estate, securities, or cash.

To learn more about these types of gifts, visit tufts.edu/giftplanning

How the new tax law impacts you, your charitable contributions, and Tufts

For many donors, tax benefits make charitable giving even more appealing. Here are a few highlights of the new legislation, which takes effect in 2018, and gift opportunities that remain particularly attractive.

- *Increase in AGI Limitation for Cash Gifts*

The deductible portion of cash donations relative to adjusted gross income (AGI) has increased from 50 percent to 60 percent, making it possible to give more cash to Tufts before reaching your annual limitation.

- *Gifts of Appreciated Assets Remain Tax-Efficient*

Appreciated assets, such as stock or real estate, remain tax-efficient giving opportunities. Donors qualify for a charitable deduction and avoid capital gains tax. Non-itemizers will still benefit from capital gains tax savings.

- *Charitable IRA Rollover Remains Popular*

For those over 70½, the [Charitable IRA Rollover](#) can help you give while reducing your taxable income. Even non-itemizers will enjoy tax benefits from this giving option.

- *Bundling of Charitable Gifts*

The increased standard deduction, combined with the elimination and capping of some itemized deductions, may lead some donors to increase contributions and itemize deductions one year, and take the standard deduction the following year.

- *Gifts through Estate Plans*

The federal estate tax exemption has increased (approximately \$11.2 million for individuals and \$22.4 million for married couples). Federal estate tax affects a small percentage of Americans; however, many states have a much lower threshold, making [gifts by estate plan](#) a tax-efficient option.

- *Tufts University Not Affected by Endowment Tax*

Currently, the Tufts endowment is not among the approximately 30 private colleges and universities subject to a new tax on endowment income.

Planned Gift Meets Family Goals and Supports Compassionate Veterinary Care



Bob and Lynn Murray, and
their dogs Tor and Listo

For Bob and Lynn Murray of Glastonbury, Connecticut, their planned gift to benefit Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine began taking shape years before their first visit to Tufts. Through a [charitable remainder unitrust](#), the Murrays have met several important objectives with a single gift and have become enthusiastic members of the Tufts community.

Their philanthropic objectives became clear years ago, when their terrier mix, Wynn timer, underwent surgery for a severe spinal injury.

“We realized how fortunate we were to be able to pay for her treatment and that many pet owners who love their animals as much as we loved Wynn timer can’t afford that kind of care. We decided we wanted to create a gift to help those who couldn’t afford a procedure like Wynn timer’s and were facing painful decisions,” says Bob Murray.

Then, in 2015, their vizsla, Tor, received life-saving care at Cummings School’s Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals for a rattlesnake bite.

“We were blown away by the care that he got at Cummings. From the compassionate treatment in the emergency room, to the daily updates and photos we received through his recovery, it was amazing. We knew Cummings School was where we wanted to create our gift.”

The Murrays’ trust meets yet another goal: providing Carol, their dog walker, with retirement income.

“Carol has been with us for 30 years. She’s family. We wanted to provide some support for her when she retires.” At Carol’s passing, the remainder of the trust will go to the Travis Fund at Cummings School to help pet owners in financial need cover the cost of unanticipated veterinary care.

Bob adds that they are especially interested in research at Cummings School. “We’ve lost dogs to cancer and are very impressed with the collaborative cancer research at Tufts’ veterinary school and medical school.

“We had an incredible introduction to Tufts, and we’re big fans now. They’ve made us feel part of the family.”

This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. Please contact your advisor if you are considering a planned gift. We do not currently offer charitable gift annuities in the states of Washington and Hawaii.



Kathryn A. McCarthy: A Legendary Career and a Legacy of Giving

The Tufts career of Kathryn A. McCarthy, J45, AG46, included two remarkable “firsts.” In 1946, when she was just 22, McCarthy became a lecturer in the physics department within the School of Arts and Sciences and the youngest person ever to join the Tufts faculty. Then, in 1973, she became Tufts’ first female provost. For 60 years, Kathryn McCarthy was a beloved teacher and a widely respected scholar whose research interests centered on

optical crystalline materials. Marina Otis Spiropoulos, J70, remembered McCarthy as “an inspiration...and a wonderful role model”

for female students in science and technology. Sol Gittleman, former Tufts provost, a current co-chair of the *Brighter World* campaign, and McCarthy’s long-time colleague, described her as “a diminutive physicist with a big brain, a quietly commanding style, and the ability to silence any windbag in Ballou Hall.”

McCarthy was both the source, and the inspiration, for giving legacies that still impact Tufts today. During the 1970s, she established several [charitable gift annuities](#) that provided her and a family member with income and resulted in nearly \$1 million in charitable distributions to Tufts for student scholarships. Upon her retirement in 1994 and later following her passing in 2014, colleagues and former students established gifts to celebrate her legacy, including the creation of the Kathryn A. McCarthy Lectureship in Physics and the Kathryn A. McCarthy, J45, AG46 Junior Professorship in Women’s Studies.

Gift Planning for a Brighter World

As Linda Dixon, our university gift planning chair, has emphasized, the tools of planned giving are flexible enough to meet many different needs and goals. Yet their powerful impact

on the *Brighter World* campaign may surprise you. During Tufts’ last campaign, approximately 26 percent of all funds raised were in the form of a planned gift, such as a bequest, gift annuity, or charitable remainder trust. These gifts will play a significant role in the *Brighter*

World campaign as well, offering donors a range of useful options.

For example, did you know that a gift annuity pays you a fixed income for life and counts toward *Brighter World* at the **full value** of your contribution? Many bequest intentions and other revocable estate gifts are

also recognized right away at full face value. That's great news for Tufts and for donors who can include Tufts in their future plans and energize this historic campaign today.

During the *Brighter World* campaign, we have set an ambitious goal of adding **1,000 new members** to the

[Charles Tufts Society](#), which is more than 1,500 members strong today. If you have included the university in your plans but have not yet notified us, we hope you will [contact us](#) so that we can extend our appreciation and welcome you to the Charles Tufts Society.

Whether you are considering an outright gift, a planned gift, or a combination of the two, we thank you for considering your unique role in the Tufts campaign for a Brighter World.

For more information, contact the Gift Planning Office:

Call: 888-748-8387

Email: giftplanning@tufts.edu

Web: tufts.edu/giftplanning

Supporting the Fletcher School and Climate Change Policy



*Edward L. Hoyt, Ph.D.,
F62, F64, F91P, and his wife,
Terry Hoyt, AG62, F91P*

"When meteorologists say we're going to have a flood," says Ed Hoyt, "everyone starts filling sandbags, yet climate change remains more of an intellectual exercise." Hoyt's global perspective on environmental issues and policy was shaped during his career in international banking, which took him and his family around the globe to Singapore, Amsterdam, and Bogota. Today, he serves on Fletcher's Board of Advisors and the advisory board for Fletcher's Center for International Environment and Resource Policy (CIERP), which he learned about from his elder son, Edward "Ned" Hoyt, F91, a clean-energy consultant.

Through a combination of outright gifts, a gift in his estate plan, and a [charitable remainder unitrust](#), Hoyt is contributing to Fletcher's valuable work in international environmental policy and scholarship. He was proud to support the creation of a professorship in the name of William Moomaw, a leading scholar in environmental policy at Fletcher.

"The key to successful philanthropy," says Hoyt, "is to identify our deepest priorities and give them our dedicated attention. We each have to figure out what's going to have an impact and what's important to us. For me, that's climate change and Fletcher."