Three Tax-efficient Ways to Give

Last year’s new tax law (the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) has raised many questions, including its impact on charitable planning and giving. Larry Norford of the Johns Hopkins Office of Gift Planning describes three ways to maximize your tax savings while supporting Johns Hopkins.

1. **Give appreciated securities.**
   - When you give appreciated shares of stock or mutual funds that you’ve held for at least one year, you benefit Johns Hopkins and avoid capital gains tax. If you itemize your deductions, the benefits of giving appreciated securities are even greater, as you also receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the securities.

2. **Make a gift from your IRA.**
   - Individuals who are age 70½ or older may give up to $100,000 annually from a traditional IRA directly to a charity, such as Johns Hopkins. These funds are excluded from taxable income and count toward your required minimum distribution. By avoiding tax on unneeded distributions from your IRA, you receive an income tax benefit, even if you don’t itemize your deductions.

3. **Establish a charitable gift annuity.**
   - A charitable gift annuity (CGA) supports the future of Johns Hopkins and provides fixed, guaranteed income to you or a loved one. A CGA also offers tax benefits to you, including partially tax-free income and favorable treatment of capital gains when you make your gift with appreciated securities. You are also eligible for a charitable income tax deduction. What’s more, payout rates for new Johns Hopkins charitable gift annuities increased on July 1, so it’s a good time to establish a CGA and receive even more income.

For information on these and other mutually beneficial ways to give, visit giving.jhu.edu/giftplanning.

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For close to a year, Ruth Kantor watched helplessly as pancreatic cancer destroyed her father, a Russian immigrant who once drove a milk truck to put himself through pharmacy school.

Except for some arthritis, Victor Kantor was still remarkably healthy at 75. But he began feeling chronically ill a few months after his first grandchild was born.

His 1971 death has lingered for all these years in the mind of his daughter, Ruth, as have the deaths of an uncle and grandmother who also succumbed to pancreatic cancer.

The disease is the nation’s fourth leading cancer killer, claiming within five years the lives of 92 percent of those diagnosed.

Now, Ruth Kantor is doing her part to ensure that fewer families will have to grapple with this deadly disease in the future.

She has pledged a minimum $3 million gift from her estate to the Department of Pathology at Johns Hopkins to fund research aimed at improving early detection and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

“Once you have any kind of symptoms, it’s almost always too late,” said Kantor, a psychiatrist who lives in New Jersey. “I want to give people the opportunity to live longer.”

Kantor believes the disease’s impact on her family started with her father’s mother, who died the day before Victor married of a “mysterious illness that came on quickly.”

Though Kantor had relatives who attended Johns Hopkins, it was the Department of Pathology’s research reputation that led her to establish the Victor Kantor Family Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Kantor said she has long admired the Johns Hopkins medical staff’s reputation as solvers of complex medical mysteries, and she liked the facilities in Baltimore for their brightness and hope.

“It’s a place that has always had a positive aura for me,” she said. “If you don’t know your diagnosis, or it’s complicated, Johns Hopkins is where you go.”

Her confidence in the Department of Pathology’s innovative research approach was buoyed by the emphasis placed on understanding the role genetics plays in pancreatic cancer and the focus on early detection methods.

Kantor was inspired by faculty members Laura Wood, MD, PhD, whose team is using DNA sequencing to identify the genetic drivers of this deadly disease, and Michael Goggins, MD, who,
along with his research team, has developed more effective methods of early detection of pancreatic cancer.

Kantor, now 75, is healthy, but knows her own risk of developing pancreatic cancer is likely higher because the disease can be hereditary.

She is still working and pursuing her passion of helping others.

Once a stay-at-home mother of three, Kantor returned to college as a medical student in her mid-30s. Having completed a biology degree at Bryn Mawr College in 1963, she took no refresher courses, and instead prepped for the MCAT by poring over the New York Times’ medical coverage and utilizing her public library.

After she received her medical degree and completed her residency in psychiatry at The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Kantor spent decades working in private practice.

During medical school, Kantor and her husband divorced, and she came to rely on loving au pairs and nannies. One of her nannies—a woman who became like family to the Kantors—earned a master’s degree in public health and became an administrator for a health agency. Several years ago, she offered Ruth an opportunity to counsel her HIV-positive, low-income patients in Newark. This has become a meaningful part-time position that Kantor cherishes in her quasi-retirement.

With her adult children grown and three grandchildren keeping her young, Kantor said she wants her legacy to be forward-looking.

“I feel strongly about charity, and I want to be a good role model for my children so they see the importance of giving,” Kantor said.
A 1998 Master of Health Sciences graduate of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Christopher John Bise, PhD, was a certified mine safety professional and mining engineer. Through his estate, Dr. Bise made a generous gift to the school’s Department of Environmental Health Sciences. His gift establishes a scholarship in his memory for students majoring in environmental health engineering or industrial hygiene and safety.

After graduating from the Johns Hopkins Art as Applied to Medicine program in 1956, Gwynne M. Gloege had a long and successful career as a medical illustrator at the UCLA Medical Center. Ms. Gloege established a scholarship in the Art as Applied to Medicine Department in 2004 and added to this fund with a generous gift from her trust. The Gwynne M. Gloege Scholarship Fund in Medical Art provides financial aid to promising medical art students and allows them to study in this preeminent program.

William J. Sullivan Jr. received his bachelor’s from the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences in 1954 and a master’s from the Writing Seminars program in 1973. Mr. Sullivan was a prolific poet and loved learning and teaching others. He was a member of the Johns Hopkins Club and gave regularly to the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Through his estate, he donated several gifts-in-kind to support the Sheridan Libraries.
O
n September 27, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine hosted the Third Annual Johns Hopkins Legacy Society Luncheon to celebrate and honor those who have made a commitment to the future of Johns Hopkins University and Medicine through their estate plans or life income gifts. The Legacy Society is named for Mr. Johns Hopkins, whose founding legacy gift established the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The Legacy Society Luncheon brought together nearly 120 members from across the institution to the Belvedere in Baltimore where guests enjoyed a welcome reception and lunch and meeting fellow legacy society members and university leaders.

The program featured Dr. Charlene Galmaldo, the medical director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Sleep at Howard County General Hospital and associate professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She talked about her research interests at Johns Hopkins, including the consequences of chronic sleep deprivation, and described the important role sleep plays in overall health.

Janie (Liza) Bailey—legacy society co-chair and member of the University, Medicine, and Health System Boards of Trustees—provided opening and closing remarks. She especially thanked legacy society members for their gifts during Johns Hopkins’ most recent fundraising campaign, which raised over $6 billion.

“Your legacy giving played a vital role in providing momentum to the Rising to the Challenge campaign,” she said. “Thank you for your forward looking commitment to Johns Hopkins.”
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
1. CHARLENE GAMALDO
2. STEFANIE VALAR
3. ELAINE FREEMAN AND JILL MCGOVERN
4. GUESTS IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE BELVEDERE
5. VIVIAN BAILEY WITH WILLIAM AND MARGARET DUNNING
There are ways you can easily support Johns Hopkins, and some gifts even pay you back. For your year-end giving, please consider:

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To learn more, contact the Office of Gift Planning.

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email: giftplanning@jhu.edu  
web: giving.jhu.edu/giftplanning

Seek advice from a tax professional before entering into a gift annuity agreement.