Dr. Wendy Barr … continued from cover

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In 2005, she did just that. Dr. Barr established the Wendy J. Barr Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, which provides scholarship support to undergraduate nursing students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. She supports this scholarship annually.

Dr. Barr values her Jesuit education and hopes others who feel the same might consider making a similar gift.

“I firmly believe that we need to give back to others and pay it forward,” says Dr. Barr.

—WENDY BARR
PHD, RN (BSN ’69)

Supporting the future for aspiring nurses

Wendy Barr, PhD, RN (BSN ’69), cannot remember a time when she didn’t want to be a nurse. The newly retired lifelong nurse and educator grew up with a single mother who could not afford to send her to college. That dream became a reality, however, when Dr. Barr received a full Presidential Scholarship to Loyola. The good fortune and quality education she received at Loyola led Dr. Barr to establish an endowed scholarship so that others could have the same opportunity.

Dr. Barr attended Loyola’s nursing school in the late 1960s. “I remember it as one of the most wonderful times of my life,” she says. “I lived in Stebler Hall with about 90 other girls. We were like a big family.”

She graduated from Loyola in 1969 and dove into her field as a critical care nurse at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison. Over the next decade, she and her husband moved back and forth between the east coast and the Midwest, finally settling in Texas in the early 1980s. Along the way, Dr. Barr obtained her master’s degree in critical care nursing. Later, she got her PhD in nursing from Texas Woman’s University.

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Will potential tax changes affect your plans?

On January 1, 2013, the federal estate tax exemption is scheduled to drop to $1 million (from the current $5,120,000), and many income tax laws are due to expire, affecting tax rates and tax breaks.

What will legislators do? The answer to that question probably won’t be known until a post-election session of Congress.

In the meantime, many advisers suggest using this occasion to revisit financial and estate plans, including wills, living trusts, and charitable gift arrangements. Taxpayers should always consult their advisers when tax laws are changing, but here are some general strategies to consider while waiting for the legislative dust to settle:

• Make a rough estimate of your assets and liabilities, so that when Congress does act on estate taxes you’ll know if you are affected by the new exemption and can plan accordingly. Use this occasion also to review your current will and/or living trust, as well as the beneficiary designations on your life insurance, retirement accounts, and other arrangements. Ensure that persons you have named to act as trustees, executors, or guardians are still able and willing to serve.

• Consider whether you now wish to make additional bequests to charity, such as a thoughtful legacy gift to the Stritch School of Medicine or the

“A charitable bequest is a simple way to support Stritch or Niehoff.”

Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. Bequests, both large and small, have had a lasting impact on the University and have helped shape all that we are today. Indeed, for many Stritch and Niehoff alumni and friends, a charitable bequest is a simple way to support Stritch or Niehoff.

• Make the most of favorable income tax rules in effect for 2012. A June 9 Wall Street Journal article suggested that new tax legislation could sharply reduce the tax rewards of charitable giving after 2012. The article further advised maximizing contribution deductions this year, especially by selecting appreciated securities for charitable giving. Donors of appreciated stocks avoid all taxes on any long-term capital gains, and they can deduct the full fair market value of their securities, not just the original cost. For supporters who have ever considered major and planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, or charitable lead trusts, 2012 would be the logical time to complete those plans.

It’s important to monitor ongoing tax legislation in Congress and revise your estate plan accordingly. If changes are needed, we hope you will consider adding or increasing a bequest to Stritch or Niehoff to create your lasting legacy.

Charitable gifts of insurance

Providing for the future of Stritch and Niehoff

Life insurance policies are purchased at different stages of our lives. Have your circumstances changed since you established a policy? Did you know that life insurance policies can also serve your charitable intentions?

If you are thinking about a contribution to Stritch or Niehoff, a gift of your life insurance could be a sensible option. You can retain ownership of the policy and name Stritch or Niehoff as the beneficiary. Or, name Stritch or Niehoff as a contingent beneficiary, and secure your family first.

The amount payable to Stritch or Niehoff will not be subject to federal estate taxes. You can even assign Stritch or Niehoff as the owner of the policy, continue to pay premiums, and receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Simply give us a call at 800.424.1513 for more information about gifts of insurance, or speak with your insurance agent to receive a beneficiary designation form.

Ready to help

When you have questions about making a gift to the Stritch School of Medicine or the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, the Gift Planning team is ready to answer them. Please call or write us. To browse more resources, please visit our website at LUC.edu/plannedgiving.

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