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Ernie House | Becky's Husband

MISSION IN ACTION: THE WAY WE EDUCATE

Generous Estate Gift Will Help Support Future Caregivers

The pictures are vintage now—almost 60 years old: a young Ernie and Becky House walking down the aisle, saying their vows, cutting that white wedding cake. A slice of life. A moment in time. A legacy waiting to unfold.

Over the decades, their love—and their life—expanded. The Houses moved from Georgia to Florida to Nebraska as their careers evolved: Ernie as an electronics technician, Becky as a licensed practical nurse (LPN). They both graduated from South Georgia Technical College. That's where they met.

Money was tight in Becky's family—and heart issues were common. Her mother and father both died of heart attacks.

"That was part of her wanting to care for people," Ernie said.

A gift from her aunt and uncle allowed Becky to complete her schooling, an act of generosity that would gain interest over the years. A legacy starts to unfold.

"Becky got her education in what she wanted to do," Ernie said. "She wanted to pay it forward."

During her 32-year LPN career at an Omaha retirement center, Becky engaged in numerous acts of caring—above and beyond her official duties. She often supplied clothing and meals for residents and guests in need.



"I found all these gift cards from restaurants that we'd never been to. Her boss said if somebody looked like they needed food, she'd give them the cards. That was just Becky's way," Ernie said.

As she cared for others, she also received care. Methodist was there for Becky throughout her life: a surgery dating back to 1975 and recurring treatment for her own heart issues.

"We've always liked Methodist," Ernie said.

He's experienced The Meaning of Care at Methodist as well. Eight years ago, he survived a near fatal MRSA infection.

"The infectious disease doctor—Dr. Jessica Jones—she's the one who saved my life," Ernie said.

He laughed about his stockpile of Marriott reward points that almost went to waste and expressed his gratitude for all of the doctors, nurses and Nebraska Methodist College (NMC)



students who cared for him and his beloved wife over the years. Becky died in April of 2021. She was 74 years old.

"During Becky's last two weeks, a student from Nebraska Methodist College gave me a lot of comfort," Ernie said.

He is making good on a goal to pay it forward and "help people who don't have the finances." He's left a significant gift to Methodist Hospital Foundation in his will—money that will support scholarships at NMC and help train future Beckys.

"She would be so proud of our assets going to Methodist," Ernie said. He gets choked up when he talks about her: his life, his love, his partner in seeing a legacy of caring unfold.

"We've all been exposed to doctors and nurses who've taken care of us," Ernie said. "This will be our legacy that we gave back to Methodist and helped to benefit the community."

Secure Your Legacy of Caring with **FreeWill**

You can also secure your legacy of caring by including a gift to Methodist Hospital Foundation in your will or trust. It's easier than ever.

We've partnered with **FreeWill**. Their secure online tool can help you make or update your will or trust within 20 minutes, free of charge.

Maybe you'd rather donate life insurance or gift a farm or house. Planned giving can take many different forms—all can make a difference for now and forever.

Help support Methodist and the patients we serve. To discuss the planned giving option that's best for you, contact Dana Ryan at (402) 354-4825 or Foundation@nmhs.org.



Scan the QR code to get started.

You can use FreeWill on its own or use it to document your wishes before finalizing your plans with an attorney.

Have you thought about honoring someone special with a scholarship at NMC?

Our team would be happy to discuss the process with you.

\$60,000 Gift

- ♥ Allows you to name the scholarship
- ♥ One-time gift or payments made over time
- ♥ 5% distributed annually once scholarship is fully funded

Greatest Scholarship Needs

- ♥ Transfer Nursing Student Scholarships
- ♥ Accelerated BSN Scholarships
- ♥ Military Scholarships



Shelter from the Storms

Methodist employee Cindy Gage describes the harrowing experience: “The front door flew off. The garage door flew in. I was sitting on the couch and it flipped. I was underneath it, and then I couldn’t get the couch off of me.”

Within moments, the massive tornado—one of several to hit the metro area in late April—leveled her home near Blair.

“It was devastating,” Cindy said.

In the aftermath, Foundation donors were there for Cindy and so many other Methodist employees. Your support of our employee assistance fund helped to provide up to \$2,000 in storm assistance for team members impacted by the April tornadoes, May flooding and July wind storm.



Cindy Gage’s Property

Between May and September, our Caring Coworkers Fund paid \$234,000 in bills for more than 150 employees—storm victims and those facing other financial emergencies. To put that in perspective, that’s close to the amount the fund usually covers in a year.

During a chaotic time, the assistance let Cindy know she was surrounded by support.

“I can’t find all the words I need to say what a profound experience that was. It’s so humbling and just a sense of relief—a huge weight taken off your shoulders,” Cindy said. “I felt cared for.”

YOUR GENEROSITY POWERS OUR IMPACT

Strengthening the Health of Our Communities by the Way We Care, Educate and Innovate

2024 | Thanks to you and your giving, Methodist Hospital Foundation:

- ♥ Supported the expansion of **Methodist Community Counseling Program** to the newly opened Benson Community Health Clinic at Benson High School
- ♥ Partnered with **Methodist Mobile 3D Mammography** to provide almost 500 mammograms and follow-up care to uninsured women in our communities
- ♥ Funded a new **social worker position** for Methodist Physicians Clinics, one of more than 60 salaries subsidized overall at the clinics, Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women’s Hospital



Why Your Donations Are So Important

Philanthropy is the fastest, most efficient way to ensure that Methodist can grow and innovate.

When you give to Methodist Hospital Foundation, 100% of your dollar supports vital projects and programs that would have been delayed or not possible at all.

Make an impact today.



Scan the QR code.
Text SUPPORTMETHODIST to 243-725.
Donate online at SupportMethodist.org.

You Made This Possible

Philanthropy Funds New Mobile Health Unit

Many people struggle to find the time, transportation or money for health care. Our donors know this—and help us think beyond the walls of our hospitals and clinics.

The new Harper Family Foundation Mobile Health Unit is one more way you are making health care more accessible. Like Methodist Mobile 3D Mammography and Methodist Community Counseling Program, the new mobile unit meets the needs of our communities by meeting people where they live, play and learn.

“By focusing on prevention and connecting individuals to vital resources, we’re taking a significant step toward promoting health equity for at-risk populations,” said Kiley Petersmith, DNP, RN, CPEN, CPN, Director of Diversity and Community Engagement at Nebraska Methodist College (NMC).

Petersmith staffs the new unit with other college faculty and NMC students—an effective way for them to gain experience and community awareness.

“They are learning the heart of being change agents while interacting with clients in their environment,” Petersmith said.

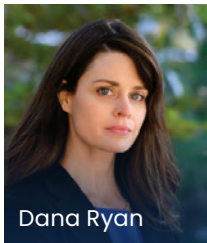
Since January, the mobile unit has been onsite at more than 60 clinics, including childhood lead screenings, outreach to the street-level homeless population, and pediatric preventative screenings at Open Door Mission and MICA House.

“It’s especially meaningful to us that the new mobile health unit brings access and education together. Students at Nebraska Methodist College—The Josie Harper Campus want to improve people’s lives. By training on the unit, they’re taking an important step, moving their learning from classroom to community,” said Betsy Murphy of the Harper Family Foundation.



Another Option for Year-End Impact

Qualified Charitable Distributions



Dana Ryan

The leaves are turning; temperatures are dropping; and thoughts are shifting to the season of celebration and supporting others.

Year-end giving is an important part of the holidays for so many of you—a way to lend a hand, set a positive example for children and potentially trim your

tax bill. As you explore the options, here’s one to consider: **a qualified charitable distribution.**

Current tax laws allow individuals, age 70½ or older, to donate up to \$100,000 tax-free from a retirement account directly to Methodist Hospital Foundation.

Here’s the added benefit: that gift can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) without adding to your taxable income. This option is known as an IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Why Choose This Option?

Make an immediate impact: Your gift is put to work right away. You get to see the difference you’re making by supporting Methodist Hospital Foundation and the way we care, educate and innovate.

Meet RMD requirements: If you need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs), this donation can cover part or all of them.

No income taxes: The transfer doesn’t count as taxable income, even if you don’t itemize deductions.

Lower your taxable income: By reducing your income, you may also lower Medicare premiums and reduce the tax on your Social Security benefits.

Want more information about QCDs or other year-end giving options? Contact Dana Ryan, CAP®, Methodist Hospital Foundation’s philanthropy officer, at (402) 354-4825 or Foundation@nmhs.org.

Methodist Legacy Society

Join Generations of Generosity

When you become a member of the Methodist Legacy Society, you're helping our patients and our communities today and tomorrow. Your planned giving ensures that we will always be able to live our mission and support the way Methodist cares, educates and innovates.

The Methodist Legacy Society recognizes special friends who remember Methodist Hospital Foundation or Nebraska Methodist College in their estate plans.

Joy Nixon Anderson
 Angela Sue Arner
 Ken Barjenbruch, M.D.
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bates
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Bennett
 L. Pat Berger
 Jane Bernecker
 Dennis & Cathy Blackman
 Mr. & Mrs. Edson L. Bridges, II
 Robert & Elizabeth Bridges
 Bob Cohn
 Maria Conte, Ph.D.
 Dr. & Mrs. Andrew and Jennifer Coughlin
 Bruce Couillard
 Christine Cox-Breternitz
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 Anthony Mickells
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 Douglas E. Olson
 Timothy Osterholm
 Cynthia Peacock

Larry & Linda Pearson
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 J. Marilyn Rogers Raupe
 Kimberly K. Reich
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 Kevin Schewe, M.D.
 Rhonda Schram
 Parker Shipley
 David & Janis Silverberg
 Jack Skiles
 Red & Jann Thomas
 Lawrence Uebner
 Thomas Warsocki
 Wax Charitable Trust
 Frank C. "Bud" Weaver
 Fred Weeks
 Dr. & Mrs. James Wheeler
 And our friends who wish to remain anonymous

Learn more about Methodist Legacy Society and the forever impact of your gift. Contact Dana Ryan, philanthropy officer, at (402) 354-4825 or Foundation@nmhs.org.

Your Planning Roadmap

Estate planning is an opportunity to create your legacy and make our communities healthier places to live.

If you've put off writing your will or making plans for your estate, you're not alone. Don't wait to take the first step.

Your Journey Starts Here

If you've put off writing your will or making plans for your estate, you're not alone. Estate planning is not a chore. It is an opportunity to create your legacy.

Don't wait to take the first step—you may actually feel relieved as you get things in order. Plus, you can rest easy knowing that you are setting your family up for success. And that's a legacy for which you can be proud.

Here are five straightforward steps you should take on your planning journey.

- STEP 1: Know what you have.**
 Your first task in planning is to figure out what you have. Your inventory should include:
 - Assets, including the estimated value and whether they are held in your name, jointly or in certain states, as community property
 - Debts and liabilities
 - Life insurance information, including policy specifics such as owner and beneficiary
 - Retirement and savings plans along with named beneficiaries
 - A list of charitable organizations that are close to your heart
 - The location of your will or other documents
- STEP 2: Make key decisions.**
 An up-to-date will or trust is the most important tool in your planning journey. Without this vital document, state law will divide your estate according to a rigid formula that probably won't match what you want. Don't go one step further without deciding which people and organizations you want to benefit through your will.
- STEP 3: Choose your team.**
 You don't have to go it alone with estate planning. Put together a strong team to help with this journey. *Turn the page to see a list of trust advisers.*
- STEP 4: Make it official.**
 One of the last steps in your planning journey involves sitting down with your estate planning attorney to create your new estate documents. Before this meeting, take time to review your decisions and the lists you've made so your wishes are clear. This information is useful for when your attorney evaluates your individual circumstances and walks you through tax and financial concerns. If you are thinking about adding a gift to the Methodist Hospital Foundation to your plans, our staff is happy to meet with you (and any other team members you wish to include) to answer any questions you may have, with no obligation.

Beyond Retirement: Your Planning Roadmap is a free resource to help launch your planning journey. Request a copy using the enclosed reply envelope or download now at MethodistHospitalFoundation.org/YourLegacy.

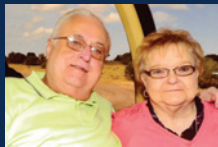


Your Methodist Legacy

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Life, Love & Legacy:

A couple's gift to future caregivers



Shelter from the Storm:

Widespread damage and a powerful donor response



Another Option for Year-End Impact:
Qualified Charitable Distributions



CALLING ALL METHODIST RETIREES!

Methodist CORE

happy hour

**Thursday,
November 14**

4pm – 6pm

Nebraska Methodist College –
The Josie Harper Campus

Grab a drink and reconnect with fellow Methodist retirees as we enjoy a holiday season warm-up!

Scan to RSVP today



New to CORE? Email your contact information to Dana Ryan at foundation@nmhs.org.

Continue Your Tradition of Caring

It's not too late to support this year's Caring Campaign. Your gift, no matter the size, truly makes a difference for our patients, employees and communities.



Scan to donate online

Thank you for doing your part—with heart.

