



Hope for a Better World



A Creative Estate Planning Newsletter for friends of Ananda

Giving for Endowment

Ensuring the Future of Ananda

The question can and should be asked:

Why would we encourage our donors to give for endowment purposes when there is always such a strong need for current annual support and special projects? Aren't we perhaps asking our donors to do too much?

These are legitimate questions and concerns. They are also the reasons the Janaka Foundation was formed, and why you are now receiving this quarterly newsletter on estate planning (which includes the different tools of charitable gift planning).

We believe that our donors can and want to help Ananda both with its present needs and into the future - when they know and understand how they can do this.

Currently, the Janaka Foundation allocates 10% of each completed planned gift we receive to our Endowment Fund. From this fund *only the earned income will be used for operating expenses*. It is our intent - along with our hopes and prayers - that over time we will be able to increase this percentage so that more of each gift we receive can be directed for endowment purposes. Until then, this Fund will have to be grown slowly.

A Time for Giving Thanks

Just recently we received our first completed planned gift. It came from a donor who had been receiving and reading our quarterly newsletters on charitable estate planning. We frequently talked. He was encouraged to write his will, which he did - *literally*. His will is what is called a "holographic will," meaning it was written by hand.

This is not the recommended nor the best way to make a will, but it is a legal and legitimate way of expressing how you want your possessions to be distributed after you are gone.

Within a year of writing his will this donor died. Because he had also made a living trust (funding it with his most valuable assets), no probate was necessary. The Janaka Foundation, along with another of the donor's favorite charities, were equal beneficiaries of the residual of his estate.

He is gone from this earth but his charitable intent lives on through his planned gift. Through this final gift, he will continue to touch the lives of his spiritual brothers and sisters through Ananda's continuing outreach efforts.

What if?

What would have happened if this donor had not received this newsletter, had not picked up the phone and talked with the foundation director, and had not been motivated to write his own will?

For one thing, his involvement with Ananda, and our service to all those who look to us for spiritual support, would have ended with his last breath.

Secondly, because he would have had no will of his own, the "will" which the state of California wrote for him would have been submitted for probate. Because the state cannot assume any charitable intent on the part of the deceased, the proceeds of his entire estate would have gone to his closest relative(s). In this case, it would have gone to his brother who (according to the donor) is well off in his own right and doesn't really need the money.



Perpetuate Your Lifetime Values

These are two pretty good reasons why you might want to receive, read, and then act upon what we are sharing with you in these newsletters. The information they provide are the means to an important end: *the perpetuation of your lifetime values as embodied by Ananda*. Through a planned gift to the Janaka Foundation you can ensure that you will be an important part of Ananda's outreach in good times and in lean times. This becomes especially important in times like these - during a prolonged recession and the near collapse of our financial markets.

Many Ways, Different Methods

Our donors can achieve this end in many different ways. They have all been explained at some length in previous issues of these newsletters.

They include:

- **a gift through your will.** This is perhaps the most familiar way and the most popular way people will choose. The question still remains: should it be a set amount of money, or a percentage of the residual estate so that all beneficiaries are treated equally?

- **life insurance**, either as a sole beneficiary of the death benefit, or as a primary beneficiary of a partial interest in the policy.

- **charitable gift annuity**, an excellent way to lock in a gift while also receiving a guaranteed income based upon age(s) of the income beneficiary(ies). At this time, the *charitable gift annuity* is available to Ananda donors living in California.

- **charitable beneficiary in a living trust.** A trust can do a lot more good things than a will, which must go through both the expenses and the time of the probate process.

- **qualified charitable remainder trust**, a way less chosen but one laden with many financial benefits for the donor.

And last but not least - the Individual Retirement Account

This is a way of giving that especially bears repeating. The **Individual Retirement Accounts** of our growing - and aging - population are also being touted as the single largest untapped source of planned gifts.

As more and more corporations are ending their defined benefit pension plans and establishing 401(k) and 403(b) plans for their employees, as thousands daily reach retirement age and begin to convert these plans into IRA's; as more Americans live longer, well into their 70's, 80's and 90's, and must begin their Required Minimum Distributions from their IRA's (even if they don't need these dollars for living expenses), generous donors are seeing these funds as excellent sources of charitable and planned gifts.

Give us a call so we can talk about the best way for you. Talk with your financial advisors. Discuss a planned gift with your family members. *Then decide which way would be best for your planned gift so you can continue to be part of Ananda - touching people's lives in meaningful ways into the future.*

For further information, or questions - please contact Parvati Hansen at the Janaka Foundation Office:

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**Janaka Legacy Fellowship Tea
Spiritual Renewal Week, August 2009**



The Janaka Foundation - Building Ananda's Legacy of Light.

This newsletter has been written by qualified specialists in financial planning and offers explanations of current techniques in easy-to-understand language. Through charitable gift planning, you can help us to prepare for our future of helping others. The information provided is general in nature. Each reader should consult his or her own counselors in applying the principles provided here.