

# PLANNED GIVING Spotlight

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## Estate Planning

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## Who Will Raise The Kids

It happened on I-55 – a truck blew a front tire, careened across the median and plowed head on into a car. The driver and the passenger were killed instantly – a husband and wife returning from a weekend break – just an hour from home.

Accidents like this happen every day. It is a family's worst nightmare. What happens to the children? Who becomes their guardian? Is there a Will that directs the distribution of assets?

Most people expect to live until they are "old" but if the unexpected happens, the impact on those left behind can be devastating. What most young couples do not realize is that the state where they reside already has a "default" Will for them that does not take into consideration the unique circumstances or needs of their family. What's more, the local court will select the guardians for any children under age 18.

Barnabas Foundation has worked with more than 7000 families to help plan their estates. Many of them are older couples. In a recent survey done by Barnabas Foundation, we found that less than 10% of couples under the age of 30 have a valid Will.

To help meet the estate planning needs of young families, Barnabas Foundation has initiated a new workshop entitled, Your First Will. In this two-hour workshop, our planners will help you work through the decisions necessary to prepare your first will. The workshop will provide information, discussion time and opportunities to ask questions. It will give couples a forum to learn about their "First Will" before going into a lawyer's office.

The first workshops are being held at Barnabas Foundation's Tinley Park, IL offices and at the Calvin Christian School campus in Edina, MN in late October. Couples with children under the age of 18 are invited to attend. Additional workshops will be hosted by local schools and churches in various areas of the country. If you would like to see a workshop in your area, contact Barnabas Foundation to schedule a time with one of our planning staff.

## e-Grant Recommendation System

Do you have a Stewards Fund Account? Do you use the Internet? If so, Barnabas Foundation has a great tool for making your grant recommendations online. The e-Grant link on our website

([www.barnabasfoundation.com](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com)) makes supporting our member organizations a snap! You can even add new charities, whether members or not.

To date we have received 81 Stewards Fund grants from 42 separate donors with gifts totaling \$2.6 million! If this rate of use continues, Barnabas Foundation estimates that over \$4.7 million, or about 24% of all Stewards Fund grant monies, will be donated through the e-Grant System this year. Be sure to visit the Barnabas Foundation website today to check out this online resource. Contact Barnabas Foundation at 888-448-3040 or email us at [egrants@barnabasfoundation.com](mailto:egrants@barnabasfoundation.com) today to set up your account!

## Greetings From The Executive Director

Fall ushers in a new season and, at Barnabas Foundation, it brings a new sense of commitment. It is a time to assess our mission, to measure our success in achieving last year's goals and to establish goals for this year.

Barnabas Foundation professionals have been working with Christians for more than 25 years to set up Estate Plans that tax efficiently transfer assets to family members and Christian charities. Now, we are beginning to see the maturing of a number of these plans.

This past year saw record distributions from matured client estates for the benefit of our member organizations. Some of the most satisfying times at Barnabas Foundation are the days we see the final wishes of clients fulfilled, resulting in a charitable bequest that allows us to mail checks to our member organizations to help them carry out the Lord's work. There is a quiet



*Henry Doorn Jr.*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

sense of accomplishment—a realization of the reason we are here.

And our work continues to grow! This past year, nearly a hundred new clients completed estate plans with bequests totaling just over \$46 million. This brings the all time total bequest values to \$838 million with more than half of this amount designated to our members.

We thank you for the opportunity of assisting you to help accomplish the Lord's work in building His kingdom.

## Stewards Fund

### Gifting the Right Asset at the Right Time

Is now the right time for you to gift an appreciated asset? Are you looking for an efficient way to make gifts to multiple charities? If so, opening a **Stewards Fund** at Barnabas Foundation may be the answer for you.

There are many benefits to using the **Stewards Fund**:

- You can time your gift according to its greatest tax advantage.
- Your gift grows because it is, in effect, “invested” until you make distribution requests.
- You and the charities benefit from the knowledge and expertise of Barnabas Foundation staff in managing and liquidating non-cash assets.
- Using the Fund simplifies gifting to several charitable organizations.
- Your fund is donor-advised; you recommend the charities to support.
- Accounts may be used to meet long-term family charitable goals.

Getting started is easy. Barnabas staff will assist you in transferring your asset to Barnabas Foundation, a tax-exempt organization. Upon receiving the gift we will issue a receipt for your charitable contribution. We then ask you, the donor, to recommend grants to your favorite charities. Grants may be recommended immediately or over the course of a number of years.

For more information on opening a **Stewards Fund** contact us at 888-448-3040 or at [www.barnabasfoundation.com](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com).

## **A Business Built by the Lord**

Just a small service station on a corner in South Holland—ILa few yellow school buses parked behind—an inauspicious beginning for one of the great stories of how the Lord works through His people.

After a stint in the military, Terry Van Der Aa joined his dad and brother and three mechanics in keeping the fleet on the road. It was the family business so it was natural to simply step in.

Terry and Linda were married in 1970. Just three years later, his Dad and uncle sold the business to the two boys on a 20 year contract. Then began the process of acquisition. First a small company, then another and another.

During the 80's the process continued with several large acquisitions each year. Near the end of the decade, the company moved from a regional powerhouse to a national contender with a major acquisition on Long Island, NY. And in the 90's, the company became an international firm with an acquisition in the Netherlands. While Terry is reluctant to claim the title of the world's largest bus company, he is certain that there were no larger privately owned bus companies in the United States.

In the late 90's, with a run up in corporate valuations and a strong stock market, the offer by Laidlaw to buy the company was simply too good to pass up. Terry credits Bill Terpstra, a mentor, with helping to make the decision to sell.

He credits his parents with instilling a legacy of tithing. First, the business tithed on all profits and then Terry and Linda tithed on their income. The Lord saw fit to bless them. That is why Terry insists on giving credit to the Lord for building the business.



*Linda and Terry Van Der Aa*

While Terry was growing the business, Linda was busy with raising their three children. Today, both Terry and Linda enjoy their time with Michael (and his wife Kelly), Kristin and Kelly and most recently with their two grandsons.

Terry is Vice-President of the Council at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church and is on the boards of the University of Chicago Hospital, Elim's Christian Services Foundation, Providence Bank and most recently, Barnabas Foundation. He is also the past president of the board of Trinity Christian College. Linda is very involved in planning the Chicago Women's Conference coming up in April.

When asked about the role of Barnabas Foundation, Terry made an interesting observation. He said, "Just because the timing is right to sell a business, does not mean that the timing is right to give it to certain causes." Terry and Linda have used the Stewards Fund to help bridge the gap.

We praise the Lord for hundreds of Van Der Aas who use Barnabas Foundation to help in growing His Kingdom.



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Stewardship

## Financial Freedom Pathways

Through the encouragement of pastors and deacons, Barnabas Foundation has introduced a new program called *Financial Freedom Pathways*.

It is a program that consists of trained financial counselors who are ready to work with individuals and families who are interested in learning how to better handle their finances. This service:

- Partners with *deacons* in providing financial counseling to those requesting on-going assistance through the church
- Teaches basic *financial principles* from a Christian perspective
- Provides *confidentiality* to the counselee

*Financial Freedom Pathways* also offers educational opportunities through a Pre-marriage Mentoring Program that addresses core values, financial goals and demonstrates the process of creating a financial plan. There is also an Adult 4-Week Workshop which can be offered as part of an adult education curriculum or an evening education series.

*Financial Freedom Pathways* is presently being offered in Chicago, IL and Grand Rapids, MI areas.