

Life Stories

Stewards Fund

THE MATCHING CHALLENGE...

When asked what motivates their charitable giving, Cal Walstra enthusiastically responds, “Grace and I give to Christian Ministries as a way of giving back some of what we’ve received and expressing appreciation for the greatest gift of all.”



Cal & Grace Walstra

Cal spent 40 years in the insurance business starting his career with an insurance company in the Midwest and concluding it with his own company, Walstra & Associates in Wheaton, IL. In the year 2000, he sold his company to an employee and retired.

The Walstra’s have worked with their accountant and Barnabas Foundation for many years. Services have included one-on-one personal planning meetings; discussions regarding partial interest in a family business; creative uses of life insurance and complex income tax issues. They now have a *Charitable Remainder Trust* and a *Stewards Fund* account, the donor-advised fund at Barnabas Foundation.

They found out about the *Stewards Fund* from their accountant and are extremely enthusiastic about it. “The ability to give a variety of assets to the fund is a real plus,” according to Cal. They’ve given cash, appreciated stocks, real estate and a privately traded business interest (stock) to grow their account.

The Stewards Fund assists the Walstra’s with their giving and provides these benefits...

- ability to make gift at time of greatest tax benefit
- flexibility of giving to ministry(ies) at any time
- simplifies giving to a number of different charities
- increases in value because it’s “invested” until distributions are made

But one of the most exciting benefits of the Stewards Fund for Cal and Grace is the “Matching Gifts to Ministries” challenge they are able to give their children. A second marriage for both of them and the blending of two families has helped them “try harder” to establish Christian priorities and pass them on to their kids.

So how does their “matching” program work? Each year, as their parents, Cal and Grace offer to match gifts to Christian ministries by their children. They have established a minimum gift amount and a maximum amount per child. Church support and tuition payments are exempted from the support challenge. Their Stewards Fund account makes it possible for them to manage and match their children’s gifts to Christian ministries throughout the year.

“An exciting benefit of the Stewards Fund is the ‘matching’ challenge we give our children.”

“We take comfort in having money on hand in our Stewards Fund account to give to ministry,” Cal comments. “We can request distributions to meet needs when the time is right.”

Cal adds that the matching program for their kids introduces them to ministries they might not otherwise be familiar with. It encourages their children to give and lets all of them share in the joy of giving. They have shared details of the matching gifts program for their children with other families and are happy to continue to do so.

Cal continues, “In the Bible, Barnabas is identified as an encourager – a man with a Christ-like character. Barnabas Foundation has been a catalyst for Grace and me to really make giving a joyful event. I think Barnabas Foundation helped to stir that up inside of us.”