Focus ON THE Future

BON SECOURS CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM
Bon Secours Health System
Good help to those in need.®

A FINANCIAL AND CHARITABLE GUIDE FROM BON SECOURS CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

New Year, New Beginnings, New Needs

Focus on the Future was developed to provide you with information on Bon Secours Charity Health System. Not only that, it also offers you ideas on how to ensure that your financial house is in order and that your wishes to provide for family, loved ones and charitable organizations are addressed efficiently with maximum tax-saving benefits.

As you are aware, the past few years have been challenging for health care in general and for hospitals throughout the northeast in particular. Despite this difficult environment, Bon Secours Charity Health System has experienced significant growth, and we continue to meet and, in many cases, exceed national benchmarks for quality of care.

Bon Secours Charity Health System includes St. Anthony Community Hospital in Warwick, N.Y., Bon Secours Community Hospital in Port Jervis, N.Y., and Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, N.Y. Clearly, our assets at Bon Secours Charity are our employees, physicians and the services we provide.

As we start out in the new year, there will be new beginnings, new initiatives and a continued effort on our part to meet the growing health care needs of our communities. At this time, we ask that you consider your local Bon Secours Charity Health System Foundation when making charitable contributions. When you make a donation to us, we both benefit—your generosity allows us to meet our needs and you receive tax benefits.

We wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year. Thank you from your hospital.

Easily Make A Difference

Have you considered including our organization as a beneficiary of your IRA? Because retirement assets are heavily taxed when left to heirs, they make an excellent charitable gift to tax-exempt organizations like ours. It's easy to do—just list us on the beneficiary designation form.

Inside:

Retirement and Estate Planning for the Ages

Being ready for a financially secure retirement takes planning that begins early and never really ends. As you age, your situation and your financial and long-term goals change. The following checklists can help you with your planning—no matter what stage you're at in life.

Ages 40–49

- Take advantage of employer matches to 401(k) retirement plans.
- If you haven't already, create a will.
- Strike a balance between saving for your kids' college and saving money for retirement.
- Make sure your parents are managing their finances wisely. You'll have more to save for your retirement if your parents can be self-supporting in their later years.

Ages 50–59

- Aggressively save for retirement. Take advantage of so-called "catch-up" plans that allow you to increase contributions to retirement plans.
- Look at your current spending and estimate whether your retirement needs will be met by Social Security, savings or withdrawals from your retirement plan. "At this point, it's not too late to save more or plan to work longer," says Warren Ward, CFP, of Warren Ward Associates in Columbus, Ind.
- Shift to a more conservative investment strategy as retirement nears.
- Update your will if major life events occur, such as births, deaths, marriages, divorces or a move to another state.
- Consider long-term care insurance.

Planning for retirement? Where does charitable giving fit in? See the chart on the following page to find the best time to set up a gift.

Ages 60–69

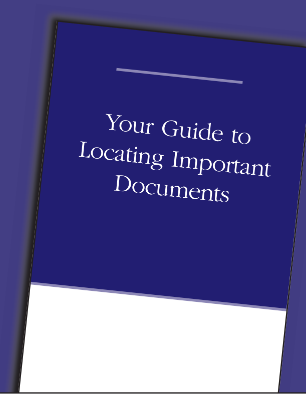
- Consult with a financial planner at least five years before you retire to make sure you are on a sound financial track.
- Make sure your will and estate planning documents reflect your current wishes.

Ages 70–79

- Live within your budget so you don't outlive your assets.
- If you don't need all of your IRA, consider taking advantage of recently extended legislation that allows you to make tax-free charitable gifts directly from your IRA until the end of 2009.
- Decide whether your current home will meet your needs as you grow older. Maybe it's time to consider a move to a retirement center or a single-story

Easily Organize Your Important Papers

Does your family know where you keep your vital documents? By ordering our **FREE guide,** you can easily take inventory so that you and your family will have peace of mind. Just return the reply card today to receive this handy tool, which will help you collect your essential estate and financial information.



Recently Extended Legislation Benefits You

If you're 70½ or older, you can make tax-free charitable gifts of up to $100,000 from your IRA until the end of 2009. Ask us for details.

house. Your current home could still be the best choice, maybe with some modifications for health needs or physical limitations.

Ages 80+

- Discuss finances and other issues with a trusted advisor.
- Inform close family members of your final wishes and where you keep vital papers.
- Update a health care power of attorney, which allows you to designate another person to make medical decisions if you are incapacitated, and a living will, which deals with end-of-life situations.
- Take pride in reaching age milestones. Enjoy your family and friends.

The Taxes Facing Your Retirement Plan

You should know that retirement plan assets could be the most heavily taxed of all your assets if left to heirs. Following your death, these assets are subject to income and estate taxes of up to 65 percent. In some situations, you can increase the amount passing to heirs and meet your philanthropic goals by leaving your retirement plan assets to a tax-exempt charitable organization such as ours.

Call us to learn more about how you can put your retirement account to work by supporting our mission.

Before or After You Retire:

When Is the Best Time to Provide Charitable Support?

Type of Gift	How It Works	When to Set Up the Gift
Cash	Write a check or charge a credit card.	**Anytime.** Tax breaks can help you each year (if you itemize).
Appreciated securities	Give securities owned longer than one year, and receive a deduction and avoid capital gains tax.	**Anytime.** Consider this gift whenever long-term capital gains taxes are an issue.
Bequest	Leave a specific amount or percentage of your estate to us through your will or living trust.	**Anytime.** You can change the gift as your life circumstances require.
Retirement plan (given to us after your lifetime)	Name us as primary or contingent beneficiary of part or all of your retirement plan.	**Anytime.** This tax-heavy asset makes a great charitable gift after your lifetime.
Charitable remainder trust	Establish a trust and then receive income for life from the trust, with the remainder going to support our mission.	**Before you retire.** You can set up the trust to receive extra retirement income.
Charitable lead trust	Fund a trust that provides payments to us for a term of years, with the balance going to your family.	**After you retire.** This trust is an excellent estate planning tool.

Action List

Estate Planning Measures You Can Take Today

Now that you're done looking over this issue of our newsletter, do you find yourself wondering "Now what?" Don't worry—below are four actions you can take right now to get things moving.

1. Return the reply card to receive ***Your Guide to Locating Important Documents,*** and start organizing your papers to give yourself and your family peace of mind.

2. Meet with your professional advisors to evaluate your retirement and estate plans to ensure that they're on track for your age and goals.

3. Contact us to learn more about tax-wise methods of supporting our mission that also meet your financial objectives—with no obligation, of course.

4. Talk to your family about your estate plans: what charities you wish to support, your final wishes and where you keep important papers.

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
Bon Secours Charity Health System

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BON SECOURS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
Bon Secours Charity Health System

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BON SECOURS WARWICK HEALTH FOUNDATION

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