

Being Remembered for the Right Reasons

A lesson in Estate Planning

How do you want to be remembered? Benjamin Franklin is remembered for being inventive, enlightened and forward-thinking. Rosa Parks is remembered as someone who fought for civil rights. Babe Ruth is remembered as a baseball legend. Elizabeth Taylor is remembered as a beauty and an activist. Joan Marchese wants to be remembered very simply... as someone who cared.

At the age of 75, Joan lives a modest life in Haddon Township, NJ, yet, several years ago she made a decision that will help save lives for years to come.



In 1970, Joan was living with her mother Helen and working in Camden. Her younger brother Joseph was a pre-med student at the University of Vanderbilt. Unexpectedly, he contracted a blood disease and died at the age of 22. To this day, Joan believes that if Joe would have been treated at Deborah, he would quite possibly still be alive.

After Joe's passing, the bond between Joan and her mother grew even stronger. They enjoyed spending time with each other until Helen's passing in 2003. Joan remembers fondly her mother as someone who took good care of her children, teaching them to be independent and, most importantly, to always help others.

As the sole beneficiary of her mother's estate and having no dependents of her own, Joan realized that without a will, the government would become the beneficiary of her estate, by default. Without hesitation, she contacted an attorney to have a will prepared. During that process Joan received some basic information about Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Intrigued, she asked her CPA to do some research on the hospital and the Foundation. When the detailed information about Deborah and its mission was presented to her, there was no doubt in her mind that she wanted to get more involved and added the Deborah Hospital Foundation as a beneficiary in her estate plan.

By informing the Foundation of her decision to include Deborah in her will, Joan was then welcomed as a proud member of Deborah's Heritage Circle. This is a revered group of individuals that have each remembered the Deborah Hospital Foundation in their Wills. Each of our Heritage Circle members carry with them a tremendous amount of pride and personal satisfaction knowing the philanthropic decision they have made during their lifetimes will continue to make a difference to others after they pass away. Their legacies will provide life-saving care for some and charitable inspiration for many others.

Understanding the pressing need for charitable support today, Joan enthusiastically makes outright gifts to the Foundation to support the Deborah mission today. "I just want to be remembered as someone who cared," Joan remarks when asked about her legacy. At Deborah, we can't imagine remembering anyone more caring than Joan!

Including a charitable gift to Deborah in your will is easy!

If you would like to remember Deborah in your Will and become a member of Deborah's Heritage Circle, please contact Ellen Krivchenia or Jim Carson at the Deborah Foundation, 609-893-0100 for more information.