

“We’re *All in* with Deborah.”

When my wife Susan and I say “we’re all in with Deborah,” we mean all in! Sue and I have been married for 58 years and raised our two children here in Moorestown. We were active parents volunteering for everything under the sun. I have been a professional Financial Planner for more than 50 years, while Susan has held positions as a teaching assistant in Cinnaminson, and in tax support with H&R Block.

In keeping with our, “it’s better to be involved than not” attitude, among other things, I co-chair the Financial Service Professionals Bob Biehl Memorial Golf Outing, with my dear friend Brian Biehl. For years we struggled to find an appropriate charity to be the beneficiary of the outings proceeds. It seemed we picked a different one each year which threatened the continuity of the event and focus of our sponsors.

But that all changed when Brian and I met Cyndy Kornfeld, Director of Volunteer Services at Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Just minutes into our initial meeting with Cyndy, we knew we found our organization. First of all, several members of Brian’s family have been severely affected by cardiac conditions including his father, uncle and brother. All three were taken from us too young. Cyndy educated us on the vast capabilities of the clinical staff, and all of the advanced technologies available at Deborah. And then there’s the fact that Deborah has been providing this world class care for 100 years with no out-of-pocket expense to the patient. From that moment, Deborah Hospital Foundation has been our outing’s exclusive charity of choice.

Despite Sue and I being active golfers, bikers, and fishermen, we both recently have been in need of cardiac and pulmonary care.

We did not hesitate to trust our lives with the experts at Deborah, and the experience was more incredible than we could have imagined. As our medical needs increased and we were exposed to more of Deborah’s staff and clinical specialists, we were blown away by the level of expertise, respect and compassion we were given. As we have come to understand, this is how all the patients at Deborah are treated.

Although legacy planning is my area of expertise, it is both complex and emotional. When considering our own legacy, firstly, we want to benefit those nearest and dearest to us. Then, once satisfied that we had met our commitment to number one, we pondered long and seriously any options to support worthwhile institutions for future consideration. Now, with a seven year association with Deborah through the Biehl Golf Tournament, as well as our personal experience with the physicians, Deborah became an obvious choice in our estate plan.

We had always heard of Deborah, but never knew about Deborah. Our personal experience, and all those we speak to, has solidified our belief and devotion to the mission and vision of this extraordinary organization. So much so we have made a significant provision in our wills and estate plan to invest in and expand Deborah's vision by establishing a Trust that will generate annual revenue for Deborah in perpetuity, giving other families the opportunity to extend the time they share with their loved ones. As a result of being a legacy donor, we were recently welcomed to into Deborah Foundation's Heritage Circle Society. A true honor.

When asked what we want our legacy to be, it is simply to be remembered as loving individuals who cared enough to turn our strong belief in Deborah into a positive action.

“Sue and I have always felt the personal responsibility to give back to our community to the best of our abilities, volunteering and fundraising for an array of organizations, including Deborah.”

–Tom Piersanti

Sue and Tom Piersanti
Deborah Foundation Heritage Circle Society members

