

Garland Story



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When it Comes to Planned Giving, You Got to Give it a Try

As a member of the Elks Hoop Shoot Grand Lodge Sub-Advisory Committee, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Frank Garland rarely misses the National Finals in Springfield, Mass. Of all the programs the Elks National Foundation funds, Garland finds the most joy in watching Hoop Shoot participants compete and learn about the importance of trying hard to excel at something. And making a free throw, Garland says, always looks easy until you try. Including the Elks National Foundation in your estate plans, on the other hand, seems to carry the opposite assumptions-it looks difficult until you try.

"Planned giving is really fairly simple," says Garland, who has included the ENF in his will. "If people want to leave a legacy honoring their time in the Elks, the ENF is the ideal spot to do so."

Limitless Legacy

Planned giving can be an overwhelming idea for many people. They want to make the most of their retirement assets, receive tax benefits and know they're supporting an organization that will continue to prosper long after they're gone. When Garland decided to include the ENF in his estate plans, he found comfort in knowing the gift would be deposited into a permanent endowment fund and the Foundation would only spend the income earned from it.

"I'd love to see the endowment fund double in 10 years," says Garland. "With the fund, there's no limit to what we can do."

Vice-Chairman of the ENF Board of Trustees and a Bronze-level donor, Garland feels a deep commitment to the Foundation and its programs. This devotion inspired him to make a planned gift to the ENF. But, like many people, estate planning wasn't something that Garland thought about every day. When he heard about the ENF's John F. Malley Society, which recognizes individuals who make estate gifts to the ENF, it reminded him to take action to join in October 2004.

"When I die, I hope that my great grandchildren may even benefit from the Foundation," says Garland, who has nine great grandchildren. "No matter what, I know my gift will be used to do great things in Elks communities."

Where to Begin

Through programs like the Community Investments Program, ENF donors are seeing the return on their contributions reaching closer than ever to home. Garland believes this program and the positive results from ENF's scholarship, veterans and youth programs will inspire others to leave their legacy. While it's important for donors to become familiar with different planned giving vehicles and their benefits, Garland says they first have to educate themselves on what the ENF is all about.

"If it wasn't for organizations like the ENF, so many young people wouldn't have the advantages they do," says Garland. "If people see what happens when kids get scholarships or participate in Hoop Shoot, they will appreciate the results and want to contribute to maintain the programs for years to come."

Garland joined the Elks shortly after returning home from serving in the Navy in 1945. Over the past 64 years, he's held countless positions in Elksdom leaving a legacy of service behind for future generations of Elks leaders. By making a planned gift to the ENF, his legacy will also be one of compassion and generosity. Unlike shooting free throws, planning for the future doesn't look easy, but for Garland, it was a slam dunk.