



GIVING THOUGHTS

Planning Today For Clearbrook Tomorrow

Success Leads to Giving Back

Henry Smogolski grew up in Chicago in a predominantly Polish neighborhood with his mother, grandmother and sister. “My dad passed away when I was in high school,” he said. “My mom worked really hard to support us, but I never felt like we were poor.”

Henry learned the meaning of hard work early on. After high school, he became the youngest apprentice at one of the largest printers in the country. “While I was the night foreman at the print shop, I took a day job at a local bank known as the Polish savings and loan,” Henry said. After a year and a half of working both jobs, Henry left the print business to focus on banking.

Henry met his late wife, Isabel, at a neighborhood party. Henry said, “After that first dance, I just pursued her. I know they say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I thought my wife was one of the most beautiful women inside and out.” They were married 56 years and have three children and five grandchildren.

Hard work pays off

With Isabel by his side, Henry worked diligently at the savings and loan, increasing both the number of branches as well as the overall assets of the bank. The employees and the stockholders all benefited from the bank’s success over the years, as did Henry. “Many of my employees who had stock in the bank did very well because of the increase in the stock over time,” Henry said. “So did Isabel and I. We knew that, because of our financial success, we had to give back.”



The Smogolski Family

To achieve their charitable giving goals, Isabel and Henry thoroughly researched several nonprofits and organizations before they made contributions. Clearbrook was one of the groups that attracted their attention. “We visited Clearbrook and were impressed by what they were doing,” Henry said. “Isabel and I were blessed with healthy children and grandchildren, so we wanted to focus our efforts on helping the residents at Clearbrook who may have a tougher time.”

Giving back

Isabel and Henry made several annual gifts to Clearbrook before Isabel passed away in 2010. Henry has also decided to include Clearbrook in his will. “I was always taught ‘To whom much is given, much is expected,’” Henry said. “I was successful in life, and now it feels so good to be able to give back to causes that are doing a good job, like Clearbrook.”

Update Your Plans for a Secure Future

These days there is no shortage of information available about financial and estate planning. Much of it promotes the need to take specific actions, such as making an estate plan, investing wisely or planning for retirement. It can bring you great peace of mind to have such plans in place, knowing you have provided as best you can for the future.

As time goes on, however, many changes can occur that affect the plans you have made for your long-term economic security, and that of your loved ones and others you wish to benefit.

Has it been a while since you updated your long-range financial plans? Even the most comprehensive plans can become inadequate over time.

Adapting to change

Many of life's milestones can affect your will, living trust or other estate planning tools you have put in place. The birth of a child or grandchild could

be one example, relocation to another state or a change in your financial situation would be others.

Estate plans should reflect your thoughts, desires and financial picture at a given time. Whenever your circumstances change, so should the documents that mirror them.

Time for a review?

Regular reviews of your long-range plans are the best way to make sure your arrangements keep up to date and meet your current goals. Your financial advisor, attorney and other professionals can help you go over your plans and be sure they still meet your needs.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions you or your advisors may have about the charitable aspects of your plans. We would be happy to provide more information about ways you can provide a lasting legacy to Clearbrook while preserving financial security for you and your loved ones.

How Sound Is Your Estate Plan?

Are you certain that your current estate plan is in shape and up to date? Take this brief quiz to find out!

Yes No

- 1. Do you have a will or living trust to direct the final distribution of your property?
- 2. Is the makeup of your family the same as when you last reviewed your plans?
- 3. Do you live in the same state as when you last updated your will and/or other plans?
- 4. Have you executed appropriate powers of attorney to allow someone you trust to act for you, should it become necessary?
- 5. Is the person you have named to settle your affairs still able and willing to serve?
- 6. Are your insurance and/or retirement plan beneficiary designations up to date?
- 7. Is your life insurance coverage adequate to protect survivors?

Yes No

- 8. Have you made plans for who should receive your property, should your primary heirs not survive you?
- 9. Has the value of your assets remained the same since you last reviewed your plans?
- 10. Have you provided for the care of children or grandchildren, or others who depend on you in the future?
- 11. Are all the people and organizations that are important to you mentioned in your plans?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you may need to review your plans. Professional advisors who specialize in such matters can offer advice and help to coordinate various parts of your plan.

Effective Estate Planning Provides Many Benefits

Effective estate planning often means more than issuing directions for the future distribution of your property. With the proper plans in place, you can provide future economic security for yourself, your family and others you wish to benefit.

Ensure future income for yourself. You can plan for an income source that may help enhance your independence and continued comfort, especially during retirement years.

Create income for surviving loved ones. If you wish to provide a loved one with lifelong benefits, options are available that can produce an income supplement while saving taxes.

Protect the value of your property. Without a valid estate plan in place, a judge might order your property to be sold and the cash proceeds divided among your heirs. In such a case, a prized collection might be broken up or land that has been in the family for generations be sold to strangers.

Reduce expenses.

Professional advisors with estate planning experience know the best ways to diminish settlement costs and delays.

Ease the tax bite. Although gift and estate taxes are not a primary concern for everyone, obsolete or inadequate plans could possibly result in more of your assets going toward the payment of taxes.

Make a special gift. You may wish to use your estate plan to designate a gift to Clearbrook that will provide a safe and secure way of life for the people in our care.

Begin now

There is no time like the present when it comes to creating or updating your estate plans. Experience the peace of mind that can come from taking control of the future in ways that can benefit you, your loved ones and Clearbrook.

We would be happy to talk to you and your advisors about ways you can include us in your plans.



Estate Planning and Philanthropy Can Be Partners

Charitable gifts can be included in your estate plan, sometimes with welcome benefits to you and your loved ones. Contact us for more information about how you can make Clearbrook a part of your charitable legacy.

As you review and update your plans for the future distribution of your property, you can make things easier for your loved ones by gathering together important information they will find useful. This would include such things as a copy of your will, the name and contact information of your attorney and financial planner(s), account numbers for bank and investment accounts, life insurance policies and retirement accounts. Your Social Security number, income tax records, digital accounts and passwords, as well as funeral instructions will also be helpful. This information should be kept in a secure place until it is needed.



Using Retirement Plan Assets to Make Your Gifts

Using retirement plan assets for charitable giving was probably not part of your plans at the outset. However, these funds can be a wise source for making your gifts, both now and in the future.

Giving Now

Make Tax-Free Gifts to Clearbrook From Your IRA. If you are aged 70½ or older, you can give directly from a traditional or Roth IRA completely free of federal income tax (up to \$100,000 per person per year). Giving directly from your IRA won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your Social Security income to a higher level of taxation. Additionally, your charitable IRA gift may count towards your required minimum withdrawal.

Giving Later

Make Clearbrook the Beneficiary of a Retirement Plan. When you leave the balance of an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) to your heirs, they must carefully manage the account to avoid losing its tax-deferred status and potentially triggering large income taxes and possible penalties. You can simplify matters for your loved ones by directing all or a portion of what remains in your retirement accounts to charities and leaving other more tax-favored assets to your heirs. Designating a charitable beneficiary of a retirement account does not require you to change your will.

For more information about making a gift using retirement plan assets, simply return the enclosed card.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMXVI RFSO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NWX-16



For more information on ways to include Clearbrook in your estate plans, please return the enclosed reply card or call Kelly McGraw at (847) 385-5014.

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Remembering
Clearbrook in your will
or trust is a wonderful
way to ensure that we can
continue to provide for
people with disabilities
into the future.

It is also easy to
name Clearbrook as
a beneficiary of your
retirement plan, life
insurance policy or bank
account. It is as simple as
filling out a beneficiary
designation form with
your bank or policy or
plan provider.

Our legal name is:
Clearbrook

Our tax I.D. number is:
36-2420176

