



Having survived three bouts with cancer, Charlotte Jones has designated a bequest to support genetic research.

## Hope inspires visionary gift

Charlotte Jones of Houston is used to setting ambitious goals for herself. In pre-pandemic days, you might have had to go hiking in Patagonia to find the management consultant retiree, avid traveler and three-time cancer survivor.

“I’ve been a patient since the early ’80s. I feel a little like I’m cheating because I’ve never had chemo or radiation,” Jones says, recounting her cancer journey and generous legacy gift to MD Anderson. “They’ve always caught everything very early.”

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### FROM THE LEGACY SOCIETY

## Shaping your legacy

One of today’s most popular television topics is the home remodel. Hosts plan, overcome obstacles, customize and complete the job. We assume everyone lives happily ever after.

Building a personal legacy follows a similar trajectory. Planning and flexibility are key, and there are many opportunities to add personal touches that reflect your priorities. You can shape a legacy marked by a caring commitment to your loved ones and favorite charities.

This newsletter explores planning your will, endowment fund gifts, life income gifts and other options. We also share some tax tips for 2021. For more on

planning ideas that can help you and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, please contact us. Be sure to ask for our free planning resource, Plan Now, Give Later.

Thank you for supporting MD Anderson.

Sincerely yours,

Darrow Zeidenstein, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Development Officer





The Charlotte H. Jones Memorial Fund, an IRA bequest, will provide funding to further genetic and related research at MD Anderson. It follows Jones' long history of giving to the Annual Fund.

At just 25, Jones had thyroid cancer, cured with surgery and drinking radioactive iodine. In 2005, she was diagnosed with a rare type of gynecological cancer, endometrial stromal sarcoma. "The tumor feeds off estrogen, so after a hysterectomy, I just had to take a pill that keeps estrogen out of my system," she says.

Her one regret is that her late husband, who died of lung cancer in 2013, did not come to MD Anderson for treatment. That same year, she also had breast cancer and opted for a double mastectomy and reconstruction. She underwent genetic investigations to see if an explanation could be found for her having had several types of cancer.



*“To be able to give a little something back and help fund [cancer] research is very important to me.”*

*– Charlotte Jones*

Jones adds, "I try to not let cancer define me." She stays active and plans to resume hiking in Latin America and beyond when the pandemic subsides.

It all boils down to her own words of wisdom: "Don't let a diagnosis of cancer eliminate your hope."

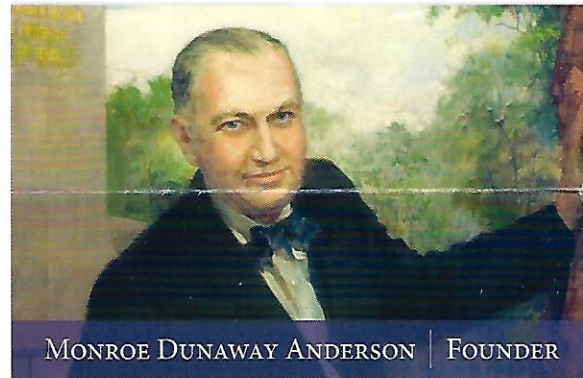
"That's part of what got me interested in leaving a legacy that might support genetic research," she says.

Jones' endometrial sarcoma recurred in 2019, so she started the estrogen inhibitor again. "I'm fortunate that I've been able to go to MD Anderson, which has the best research. To be able to give a little something back and help fund that research is very important to me."

Noting her multiple diagnoses, she says, "It would be easy to give up, but I could sit around and mope and then get hit by a truck tomorrow — and I would have spent today worrying about the cancer!"

## A lasting legacy

A man of vision and foresight, Monroe Dunaway Anderson, banker and businessman, created the MD Anderson Foundation. Two years after his death, the foundation provided funds for the establishment of what is now The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.




Building on that initial estate gift, the MD Anderson Legacy Society was created to honor and thank those who, like Anderson, have named our institution in their estate plans.

*To become a member of the Legacy Society, simply let us know you've included MD Anderson in your estate plan.*

The benefits of an estate gift are immeasurable and enable you to support ongoing research and other lifesaving programs at MD Anderson. Creating a legacy of giving beyond your lifetime requires wisdom, vision and a plan tailored to your unique circumstances.

The Office of Trusts, Estates & Gift Planning is available to assist you in creating a plan that best expresses your desire to advance MD Anderson's mission to end cancer.

 To join the Legacy Society, contact us at **866-928-9494** or **[plannedgiving@mdanderson.org](mailto:plannedgiving@mdanderson.org)**



# A lifesaving commitment

Your will or living trust is the beginning of a meaningful legacy. Whatever the value of your estate, a thoughtfully drafted will or living trust offers many benefits, including determining how your estate will be distributed. Without a will or living trust, the laws of intestacy prevail, and the state where you reside distributes your assets according to a fixed, statutory formula. This “one size fits all” approach cannot account for your personal objectives, your family’s unique circumstances or your charitable intentions.

## Legacy-shaping opportunities

Your will or living trust can benefit you, your loved ones and MD Anderson.

- You gain peace of mind knowing your assets will be distributed according to your specific wishes.
- Your family and loved ones benefit because your plans are clear, precise and thoughtfully documented.
- MD Anderson receives valuable future support through a gift that is easy to plan now and complete later.

## More than one way to support MD Anderson

You can make a meaningful gift commitment — perhaps one that is larger than you ever thought possible — in your will or living trust without putting your current financial needs and obligations at risk:

- Distribute a specific asset or pay a specific amount to MD Anderson.
- Allocate a percentage of your estate to be distributed to support our mission. If the value of your estate increases over time, the value of the gift increases.
- Make a residual gift to MD Anderson — what is left of your estate after all other obligations have been met (costs, debts, taxes and other specific designations).

Your will or living trust is a flexible and helpful giving option for you to provide for loved ones and favorite charities.

## Make an impact today and tomorrow

One of the most meaningful and rewarding ways to shape your legacy and help MD Anderson fight cancer is with a gift to an endowment fund.

When a gift is made to an endowment fund (or to create an endowment fund), only the earnings from the fund are used to support our work. An endowment fund is designed to last perpetually, providing annual gifts for a specific purpose year after year.



You have many options when making this type of gift — the page 1 article featuring Charlotte Jones’ endowment fund giving is one example of a rewarding, highly personal way to build a meaningful legacy. The significance of endowment fund giving is that you can meet specific goals and make a difference for generations to come.

*The information contained herein is offered for general informational and educational purposes. You should seek the advice of a financial planner or an attorney for applicability to your situation.*



# Meet personal needs and charitable goals

Life income gifts — charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts — are unique because you can support MD Anderson, qualify for a deduction if you itemize your tax return, and receive income that begins right away or at a designated future time. The ability to make a tax-favored donation and receive lifetime income from this multitasking gift is a powerful combination.



## Charitable gift annuity: simple and sensible

A charitable gift annuity designates one or two income beneficiaries, and the lifetime payments can begin immediately or be deferred. Generally, deferring results in higher payments.

## Charitable remainder trusts: expand your planning options

A charitable remainder trust holds property, pays income from that property to a designated beneficiary or beneficiaries

(for life or a specified term), then distributes amounts remaining in the trust to a designated charity when the payment period ends.

You can select between an annuity trust, which provides payments of a fixed amount, or a unitrust, which provides payments of a fixed percentage of trust assets that are revalued annually, resulting in a fluctuating payment. In addition:

- **You** name the income beneficiaries.
- **You** fix the dollar amount to be paid each year.
- **You** select the payment period.
- **You** choose how to fund the trust.
- **You** name the trustee and the charitable beneficiaries.

A charitable gift annuity is easier to set up and fund than a charitable remainder trust, but charitable remainder trusts offer more flexibility. To learn more, call us at **866-928-9494**, email [plannedgiving@mdanderson.org](mailto:plannedgiving@mdanderson.org) or return the enclosed card.

## Planning tips for 2021

Recent legislation includes provisions that may impact your planning and giving in 2021.

### For taxpayers who itemize their returns:

The individual limitation for cash gifts to qualified charitable organizations (not to donor-advised funds) is 100% of adjusted gross income in 2021, which can benefit donors considering a large cash gift.

### For taxpayers who do not itemize:

A \$300 above-the-line charitable income tax deduction is available for cash gifts (\$600 for married couples filing jointly).

Also, remember that required minimum distributions (RMDs) from qualified retirement plans are back in effect this year. RMDs were suspended in 2020 as part of COVID-19 relief legislation. Generally, minimum distributions from these plans are required for those age 72 or over. IRA owners 70½ or over can make a qualified charitable distribution that counts toward their RMD (if one is due) and pay no tax on the distribution (subject to a \$100,000 annual aggregate limit).

### *Planning shapes your legacy*

*Contact us for additional information about the many options to achieve your planning goals while helping the people and causes you care about most. Thank you for considering ways to help MD Anderson end cancer.*