

# LEGACY

A FINANCIAL AND CHARITABLE PLANNING GUIDE FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR BARNES-JEWISH HOSPITAL



## Her Second Act

### A Gift to The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Mary Strauss is a St. Louis philanthropist best known for saving the historic St. Louis Fox Theater. In the 1980s, she helped return the 4,500-seat “movie palace” to its original 1929 glamour, and today the theater hosts the biggest names in live entertainment and Broadway plays. Mary is also an award-winning producer whose play “Fun Home” garnered the 2015 Tony Award for Best Musical.

But what many don’t know is that Mary is also making lives better for kidney disease patients through her philanthropic giving to The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

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“I want to leave a legacy to honor Leon. Barnes-Jewish gave him extra life. I hope others who have been helped will do the same. It’s a living legacy.”

—Mary Strauss

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When her late husband, Leon, needed a kidney transplant, world-class physicians at Barnes-Jewish Hospital offered hope—and precious time—when the situation seemed most dire. Through her gifts to the Foundation, Mary offers a helping hand to other patients as they face a similar journey.

“I’m known as being a benefactor of the arts,” says Mary. “I can’t imagine life without the arts, and I especially like to support organizations that introduce young people to the joys of live performances. But I wanted to give back to help kidney disease patients because care at Barnes-Jewish Hospital can have such a positive impact on your life. Because of Leon’s kidney transplant, he was given extra years of life. That was so important to us.”

Mary Strauss makes lives better for patients with kidney disease through her gifts to The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

*Continued from Page 1*

## Barnes-Jewish Hospital Gives Extra Life

In 1993, Leon became one of the thousands of people across the country waiting for a kidney. He discovered that the road to a transplant is often filled with agonizing waits, frequent emergency room visits, and false alarms.

Mary recalls one such moment when the couple attended one of their favorite plays, “The Phantom of the Opera,” at the Fox.

During one of the play’s most dramatic moments, the “phantom” seeks revenge by crashing the opera house chandelier. Just as the chandelier began falling toward the audience, Leon’s pager started beeping, alerting the couple that a kidney was available for transplant.

“Leon turned to me and said, ‘What do I do? What do I do?’” Mary recalls with a laugh.

Unfortunately, it was a false alarm, but the moment underscores the nerve-racking wait patients must endure before a transplant.

In the end, one family’s tragedy became a lifesaving gift for Leon when a friend of his son’s passed away in a car accident, and his kidney was a perfect match for Leon.

The generosity of Leon’s kidney donor gave him extra years and improved his quality of life.

## Giving Back to Doctors and Patients

What Mary remembers most from the couple’s frequent visits to Barnes-Jewish is the caring and compassion of the doctors and medical staff—particularly Marcos Rothstein, MD, Washington University nephrologist at Barnes-Jewish.

“Dr. Rothstein was so wonderful,” Mary says. “He’s part of our family now, really and truly.”

She and Leon both wanted to give back to Dr. Rothstein’s work to improve the lives of kidney disease patients and support future advances in the field.

They established the Leon and Mary Strauss Research Endowed Fund for Kidney Disease and the Mary and Leon Strauss Nocturnal Hemodialysis Fund. Mary has arranged to provide future support to the funds through a bequest in her will.

Mary’s funds help kidney transplant patients afford essential anti-rejection medications and equipment to ensure the best treatment outcomes. Mary also supports Dr. Rothstein’s research to develop improved therapies for patients with kidney disease.

Although Leon passed away in 1999, Mary is grateful for the precious additional time she had with him after the transplant.

“I want to leave a legacy to honor Leon,” Mary says. “Barnes-Jewish gave him extra life. I hope others who have been helped will do the same. It’s a living legacy.”

## LEAVE A LIVING LEGACY

Contact Joan Cheaney at 314-286-0704 or [joan.cheaney@bjc.org](mailto:joan.cheaney@bjc.org) to learn how you can make a lasting difference for our patients through philanthropic giving.

## TAX UPDATE

### Make a Tax-Free Gift From Your IRA

**Are you 70½ years old or older?** Congress has reinstated a law that allows you to give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital without having to pay income taxes on the money. Contact us today to learn more about this tax-smart way to make an impact today at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



## 3 Easy Ways to Pledge Your Support

### Your Generosity to Barnes-Jewish Hospital Can Last a Lifetime

As your appreciation for world-class patient care deepens, you may be looking for ways to have a lasting impact. Consider including The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital in your estate plan so future generations can benefit from essential patient care services, breakthrough research, nursing scholarships, community outreach programs, and much more. Here are three ways to make a charitable impact by naming the Foundation a beneficiary of:

1

**Retirement plan assets.** When you leave your retirement plan assets to an individual, that person will be subject to income taxes when a distribution is made from the account. But a tax-exempt organization such as the Foundation can inherit the assets without paying taxes.

**Why it's smart:** Your most heavily taxed assets become tax-free while making a difference in the lives of the patients we serve.

2

**A life insurance policy.** Most people overlook life insurance as a giving option, but it's an easy way to make a difference. Your need for life insurance most likely declines with age, increasing its popularity as a charitable gift.

**Why it's smart:** The Foundation receives a generous gift in the future without you giving up assets today. You can also adjust your plans at any time.

3

**A bank account.** Most states allow you to designate loved ones and favorite causes to benefit from your bank account after your passing. For the Foundation to benefit from your account, you must place a designation on the account to make it payable\* to us.

**Why it's smart:** You can continue using the money in the accounts. The option also avoids legal hassles and provides the Foundation more resources for the future.

*\*State laws govern payable-on-death accounts. Please consult with your bank representative or investment advisor if you are considering this gift.*



## Start Your Giving Journey Today

Estate planning provides an opportunity to create a legacy that you and your loved ones feel good about. Our FREE guide *Your Personal Planning Road Map* breaks the planning journey into simple steps. Simply return the enclosed survey to request your copy today.

# A Personal Approach to Giving

## Your Will Can Benefit Loved Ones and The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital

A gift in your will is an easy way to support The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital in the future without using any of your assets today. There are two special features that make this a popular type of gift:

- 1. Flexibility.** A gift in your will lets you balance your philanthropic goals with the future needs of your loved ones. Because you aren't parting with assets today, you don't have to worry about living expenses and future medical costs should you need the assets during your lifetime. Plus, you can change your mind at any time.
- 2. Versatility.** You can give a percentage of your estate to the Foundation. Most people can't predict the exact size of their final estate; therefore, making a gift by using a percentage amount can be a more effective means of dividing it. This allows you to benefit loved ones and the Foundation in proportion.

### Customize Your Gift to The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital

We can help tailor your gift to fit your circumstances and accomplish your charitable goals. Call us or request sample language you can use to provide a gift in your will in the enclosed survey.

Contact **Joan Cheaney**, Planned Giving Manager

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[BARNESJEWISH.PLANMYLEGACY.ORG](http://BARNESJEWISH.PLANMYLEGACY.ORG)

If you no longer wish to receive communications from The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital, or if you have a change of address, please call 314-286-0442 or email [GivingBarnesJewish@bjc.org](mailto:GivingBarnesJewish@bjc.org). The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital was formed in Missouri.