

MCKENDREE MATTERS

Honoring Our History,
Securing Our Future



Spring 2017

A Gift That Benefits Many

Earlene Voigt is a native of the Metro East, but it took her nearly a lifetime to become acquainted with McKendree University. Just five years ago, a good friend of Earlene's asked if she would accompany her to the William McKendree Society Spring Dinner. Earlene happily accepted the invitation and quickly became a regular fixture at McKendree as a member of the William McKendree Society and a Friend of the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts.

Earlene was born in East St. Louis, and remained there until her marriage. She has fond memories of visiting Lebanon while she was in high school to swim with friends at the pool at Locust Hills Country Club. After high school, Earlene attended Miss Hickey's Secretarial School and worked for Price Waterhouse & Co. until she and her husband Clarence married in 1965. They made their home in Belleville where they raised their daughter.

Always known as a "joiner," Earlene has been involved with many clubs and organizations in addition to those at McKendree, including two that are now over 100 years



Earlene Voigt (left) with friend, Joan Barnes '53, at a William McKendree Society event.

old: The Excelsior Club and The Thursday Literary Club. Additionally, she is a 48-year member of the chapter EY of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Belleville for more than 50 years, including serving as an Elder and participating in the Lamplighters Circle.

On May 7, 2016, Earlene, with her friend who had introduced her to McKendree by her side, celebrated the public launch of **Forward: The Campaign for McKendree University** with over 200 members of the McKendree community. Impressed by the vision outlined at the event and having witnessed the

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- **Will It Be Your Plan or Your State's?**
- **Retirement Plan Q&A**

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Will It Be Your Plan or Your State's?

It has been estimated that as many as 60 percent of Americans do not have a valid will in place. For those who fail to plan their estates, each state has strict rules about distribution of property, including:

- Equal provisions for heirs, regardless of different needs.
- Exclusion of friends you may have wanted to remember.
- A court-appointed guardian for minor children.
- Payment of the maximum taxes, fees and expenses that could apply.
- No regard for your charitable wishes.

Procrastination in making long-range plans may be the greatest threat to the future economic security of your loved ones. If you have not yet made your plans, now may be a good time to meet with your attorney and discover the

peace of mind that can come from knowing you have provided for your family, friends and causes that are important to you.

Six Things to Know About Estate Planning

1. Everyone should have an estate plan.
2. Your plan should include a will.
3. You do not have to be wealthy to create a trust.
4. You can leave an unlimited amount to a spouse tax-free.
5. Talking about your plans with your loved ones may prevent problems later.
6. You can create charitable gifts in your will that leave a lasting legacy to McKendree University.

Making a Gift to McKendree

If you have decided to include McKendree University in your future plans, please accept our deepest appreciation. You may want to share the following bequest language with your attorney:

“I give, devise and bequeath to McKendree University, located at 701 College Road, Lebanon, IL 62254, the sum of \$_____ (or _____% of my residuary estate) to be used for its general purposes.”

Our Tax ID number is: 37-0661219

If you would like to designate your gift to a particular purpose, school or program, please contact the Planned Giving Team for specific language and to learn how you can use a gift agreement to document your gift and its future use.



Retirement Plan Questions and Answers

Using your retirement plan assets can be a wise way to make gifts to McKendree, both now and in the future. Here are the answers to some questions you may have about making gifts from retirement plan assets.

Q. Why should I use my retirement plan assets to make a gift?

A. If the funds in your tax-favored retirement plan exceed your needs, or you are required to take mandatory withdrawals from such plans, giving from this source may be a good option.

Using these assets as part of your retirement planning can be a wonderful way to give to McKendree while minimizing taxes that may otherwise be due on these funds.

Q. What are the tax benefits in making a gift of retirement plan assets?

A. Making a gift from your IRA or similar retirement plan may result in owing little or no tax on these funds. When you itemize your deductions, you report the amount withdrawn from such plans along with an offsetting charitable deduction. Check with your tax advisors for the specifics of your situation.

Q. What if I am required to take withdrawals I do not need?

A. Consider using all or a portion of a required withdrawal to make a gift to McKendree. You may reduce or eliminate taxes that would otherwise be due on the amount withdrawn if you itemize your charitable gifts and other deductions.

Q. How do I make a future gift to McKendree through my retirement plan?

A. You can name McKendree to receive all or a part of your retirement plan assets after you are gone. Simply ask your plan administrator for a change of beneficiary form.

For more information about giving through your retirement plan, return the enclosed card or contact us. All inquiries are confidential and carry no obligation.

Making Tax-Free Gifts from Your IRA

If you are age 70½ or older, you can give directly to McKendree from a traditional or Roth IRA completely free of federal income tax (up to \$100,000 per person per year). Giving in this way can be beneficial, especially if increases in income from withdrawals cause more of your Social Security benefits to be taxed. Additionally, your charitable IRA gift may count towards your required minimum withdrawal.

Gift That Benefits *continued from Page 1*

need herself, she decided to support the renovation and addition to Voigt Science Hall.

Earlene wanted to ensure she was able to make a gift in a way that was beneficial to the University as well as her own financial well-being. For Earlene, that meant making her gift directly from her individual retirement account (IRA), an option that allowed her to support the University, meet the required minimum withdrawal and take advantage of tax benefits. Although she is not related to former McKendree President Edwin Voigt, the namesake of Voigt Science Hall, Earlene gets the added joy of knowing her gifts help support a building with her last name on it!

Memorial Gifts Last Forever

Charitable giving is an important tradition for many people. Making gifts for the benefit of others offers a wonderful way to affirm your values and priorities.

Paying tribute

Honoring a loved one through a charitable gift is often an especially meaningful act of paying tribute to someone special while assuring that worthwhile values continue to influence the world around us.

Think of a person who helped shape your values by sharing knowledge and experience along the way. Whether it was a parent or other family member, a

friend or perhaps a teacher, you may want to express your love and admiration through a special gift.

Giving for any occasion

Memorial and tribute gifts can be arranged in a variety of ways and at any time—birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation—whenever you would like to establish a loving remembrance that symbolizes your admiration and respect in an especially relevant way.

Is there someone special you would like to honor in a meaningful way? Simply call us for more information. We would be happy to suggest ideas that can result in a thoughtful gift that will provide a lasting remembrance.



For more information, contact:



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