



## **Something That Won't Go Away**

“I want to give something that won't go away and I don't know what to call it but someone told me that maybe you could help me,” the voicemail said. “Is that a charitable remainder trust?” Barbara asked when I met with her the next day. “No,” I responded, “It's not a charitable remainder trust; it's an endowment fund.”

Barbara was nearing the end of a courageous 21-year struggle with cancer and had sold her home and moved into an assisted living facility where she was receiving hospice care.

“Why, Barbara,” I asked, “are you deciding to do this now?”

“Last year, I met with my two sons,” she told me, “and I told them: ‘I'm going to give you each \$5,000, and I want you to come back next year and tell me how you have spent it.’”

“How like a parable of Jesus!” I thought to myself.

“Well, the younger one spent it on mostly alcohol and drugs, he struggles so. My older son who is married used it for some special family vacations. That is fine, but it's gone. I've decided that I want to leave each of my children with a sum of money; and the rest of my estate, I want to be something that won't go away, something that keeps giving on into the future.”

“What would you like to give to?” I asked.

“My parish, the Nature Conservancy, Catherine's House for women coming out of prison, and an international charity for children,” she said. “Will you help me?”

“I'll be glad to,” I replied.

Working with her attorney, we set up the mechanism needed to accomplish “something that won't go away.”

I reflected on Barbara's sense of stewardship. She had given serious thought to how what she left behind would be used—by her children, by her church and by her favored charities.

Stewardship is not just what we do with our current income and the hours God gives us to live. Stewardship also includes thoughtful planning about how what we leave behind will be used by others.

A gift for endowment is something that will never go away, a permanent legacy of generosity. A gift to an endowment fund can be of any size. Whether small or large, it will last forever.