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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT GIVING BY MARIE TORRANS

With summer's arrival, opportunities abound to spend time with family and friends. One of the greatest pleasures and learning experiences is enjoying time with children and grandchildren.

Sharing family experiences and transmitting those valued traditions and history constitute a wonderful way to carry on a legacy of family ties. Nurturing takes on a new meaning as we embrace the "food for thought" realm by engaging the active interest, intellect, and ingenuity of youth in a long-term commitment to our cherished ideals.

While enjoying the pool or the beach, or just visiting a museum or zoo, experiencing and teaching the art of philanthropy are a legacy commitment, and they plant the seeds to fulfill a vision for the future. The passing on of our values and customs to future generations is critical for the survival of our most important institutions and community services. A visit to a local soup kitchen, child care center, or employment center that provides services to persons with disabilities can create a lasting impression and open a new vista for the future, as well as a unique learning experience.

We can easily transform the moment through an active modeling and sharing component, one designed to promote giving, understanding, and an appreciation of the philanthropic interests of parents and grandparents. Understanding the meaning of philanthropy (from the Greek words meaning "a love of humanity") and its true implications for the greater good, coupled with an emphasis on what a difference one person can make, is a significant accomplishment and a custom to be carried into future generations. Consider your own initial introduction to charitable giving, whether through your

church, synagogue or other community endeavor. What motivated you? How did you feel? How did you educate your family and friends? What commitments did you make? Have you re-energized your passion for giving?

Begin today and build for a future of understanding philanthropy for the elders of tomorrow by taking a few minutes to share your insights and thoughts with loved ones during the upcoming summer holidays and vacations. Your commitment today means a life-long journey of sharing and caring for others.

Oast & Hook can help families achieve their goals for charitable giving through estate and financial plans.

Marie Torrans, PFP, is the Managing Director and Charitable Gift Planning Officer for the United Way Foundation.

Oast & Hook

Oast & Hook is an elder law firm. We represent older persons, disabled persons, their families, and their advocates. The practice of elder law includes estate planning, investment and insurance advice, estate and trust administration, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, titling of assets and designations of beneficiaries, guardianships, conservatorships, and public entitlements such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and SSI, disability planning, income tax planning and preparation, bill paying, account management and reporting, care management, and fiduciary services. We also handle litigation involving these issues, such as will contests and estate administration disputes. For more information about Oast & Hook, please visit our website at www.oasthook.com.

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