

GENEROSITY TODAY

Helping Christians experience greater Kingdom impact through effective, purpose-filled generosity.

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Who's Greater Than A Billionaire?

Billionaires are pretty great – at least, according to most people. How else can one explain the vast spectrum of influence and opportunity they are afforded?

For example, the governor of my state is a billionaire who paid for his election campaign with his own money. You may be able to cite a similar instance!

How about the way investors hang on every word from Warren Buffet during his company's annual shareholder meeting? Do your stock tips transform tomorrow's market place? I didn't think so.

Like it or not, billionaires matter in ways most of us don't. If this bothers you, take comfort knowing that, billionaire or not, nobody takes their wealth with them. "Their forms will decay in the grave," says the psalm writer, "far from their princely mansions." (Psalm 49:14b, NIV)

Though helpful, this isn't hopeful. How can the non-billionaire majority find significance apart from owning a personal jet and a chalet in the French Alps? Will we ever experience the kind of celebration so many billionaires enjoy?

True significance isn't derived from dollars. Instead, it comes from possessing a rock-solid assurance that God's glory is yours through Christ Jesus.

"But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead," concludes the psalm writer. "He will surely take me to himself." (Psalm 49:15, NIV)

Not only does this give hope for unparalleled glory, but it also translates into a life of ultimate significance.

Who's greater than a billionaire? Turns out, you are — to God's praise, and even more, to His glory.

SHARING WHAT WORKS

Why Phil and Sheri Hall Are Quick to Tell Others About the Stewards Fund

After retiring from a career as an electrical engineer, Phil Hall has learned a thing or two about what works and what doesn't.

So when, as the volunteer treasurer for his church, he saw several donations rolling in from Barnabas Foundation's Stewards Fund (donor-advised fund), he was intrigued to learn more.



Phil and Sheri Hall

"I saw checks coming in, but I didn't know what they were," recalls Phil.

Then one day, an acquaintance happened to explain to Phil the advantages of giving through a donor-advised fund, which allows you to streamline and simplify the process of giving to multiple charities from a single giving account. Plus, when you give appreciated assets into it, like stock, real estate and business interests, you can reduce your taxes.

It dawned on Phil: this must be what the Stewards Fund is! He instantly knew it was a great giving solution for him and his wife, Sheri. In no time, they opened an account, and they use it to support their local church and several global missionaries.

Phil and Sheri quickly realized how the Stewards Fund could also benefit other members at their church. So, Phil asked the church's financial secretary to send a letter that explained the benefits.

"You can give to the fund this year and deduct the full amount on your tax return," Phil wrote to his peers, explaining a tax-wise giving concept called "bunching." This is where you give two or more years' worth of donations in a single year to maximize your deductions. "You can then designate your donations from your Stewards Fund to your favorite ministries for years to come!"

"The benefits go well beyond dollars and cents."

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TRUSTED PLANNING SUPPORT

Through the Christian Reformed Church of North America's partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have complimentary access to trusted planning support.

A Barnabas Foundation planner will help you...

- Understand the options available for your will, in a way that is clear and easy to comprehend.
- Ensure your will reflects your personal and charitable goals.
- Give stock, real estate, commodities or other non-cash gifts while reducing taxes.
- Make gifts that provide income for life.
- Establish a Stewards Fund (donor-advised fund) account to streamline and simplify your giving.

To talk with a planner, call 888.448.3040 or email planning@BarnabasFoundation.com.

Ask a Planner



Answered by Travis Morrow, J.D.,
Director of Planning

Q: What are my options for an executor of my will or a trustee of my trust?

A: You have a variety of options when it comes to making this important decision:

- Family member
- Trusted friend
- Attorney
- Trust company or trust department at a bank
- In some states, a professional fiduciary

Each of these have advantages and disadvantages, but in any case, you should make sure your selected executor or trustee has the required expertise, integrity and time available. Additionally, the individual should not be named as a beneficiary or conflicted with other family relationships that would make the job more difficult. Using a non-family member can relieve a family of a lot of unnecessary stress and relational conflict.

Have Questions?

Barnabas Foundation will answer your questions and help you make tax-wise gifts, now and the whole year through. Call at 888.448.3040 or email planning@BarnabasFoundation.com.

THE FINAL WORD

“And what God wants us to know is that before we think or do or accomplish anything, before we have much money or little money, the deepest truth of our human identity is this: ‘You are my beloved son. You are my beloved daughter. With you I am well pleased.’”

—Henri Nouwen, *“A Spirituality of Fundraising”*

SHARING WHAT WORKS

Continued

Phil had this letter sent out two years in a row and invited anyone who was interested to contact him. In a relatively short amount of time, the number of people with Stewards Fund accounts at the Halls' church has gone from one to five!

“One person specifically spoke to me about opening a Stewards Fund after receiving the letter,” notes Phil. “He was getting stock from his company, so I explained the tax benefits and how he would save on capital gains tax by donating it.”

As for their own Stewards Fund, Phil and Sheri say the benefits go well beyond dollars and cents. “When you get a thank you letter and somebody shares how your gift furthers the Kingdom, it's rewarding,” says Phil.

Phil's enthusiasm for sharing the benefits of having a Stewards Fund continues. After all, he knows when something works – and he can't wait to share it with others.

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Learn more at BarnabasFoundation.com or by calling 888.448.3040.



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