Honoring his wife’s memory, Bill Stigelman gives back as a volunteer and board member in gratitude for the high-quality care and attention she received in her final weeks.

Upon retiring, Bill Stigelman had some free time and was looking for meaningful ways to spend it. A Hospice of the Western Reserve board member thought Bill, a former pharmacist and a military veteran, could add a useful perspective and expertise. Bill had no idea that his own wife, Jude, would need the agency’s services in a few short years.

When Jude was diagnosed with terminal metastatic lung cancer, she embarked on a journey of radiation, chemotherapy and palliative care. When active treatment had run its course, Jude and Bill turned to Hospice of the Western Reserve.

The morning of Jude’s first full day at David Simpson Hospice House, Bill arrived to stay with Jude, only to find her bed gone and her room empty. After a few seconds of dark thoughts, he realized she was outside on her own personal patio soaking up the sun. Her nurse had asked if she would like to go outside.

“From the first moment Jude set foot in DSHH and entered Suite 114, she couldn’t have received more tender, loving care,” Bill says. “To this day, I marvel that not once during Jude’s six-plus weeks there did she, her sister Molly or I ever experience anything but the best care and support.”

Since Jude’s death, Bill has been a dedicated member of the Hospice of the Western Reserve board. His contributions include lending his clinical expertise, leading the annual Walk to Remember fundraiser as a committee member and “Team Jude” organizer, and serving on the planned giving committee.

“I made the decision to honor Jude’s memory by making meaningful contributions to hospice in as many ways as I could, including making a legacy gift designation to Hospice of the Western Reserve in my will,” Bill says.

Planned gifts to Hospice of the Western Reserve ensure that others receive the best possible end-of-life care. To learn how you can include Hospice of the Western Reserve in your estate plan, contact Holly Selvaggi at 216.255.9066 or hselvaggi@hospicewr.org.
The Truth About Estate Planning

It can be challenging to prioritize preparation. Take, for example, estate planning. Let’s consider some obstacles to estate planning and how to overcome them.

Roadblock: I don’t want to think about it. Of course you don’t. It can be challenging and uncomfortable to consider. Many of us resist this line of thinking until it’s impossible to ignore—perhaps until we are confronted with loss.

Rethink It: Create space to reflect and make arrangements in advance, on your own time. Remember that your estate plan is really a gift to your loved ones. Being prepared benefits them in a difficult time.

Roadblock: It’s complicated and time-consuming. Yes, estate planning takes effort. For expert advice, consult with an estate planning attorney and financial advisor. It’s also helpful to organize documents and outline goals before these meetings.

Rethink It: Consider the sense of accomplishment and peace of mind you’ll have knowing your wishes will be fulfilled.

Roadblock: I don’t want to make decisions I might have to change later. Any plan is better than no plan. During your lifetime you can change your mind and make updates as needed.

Rethink It: Make sure you have control over your estate and can provide instructions for its use.

LEAVE THE LEGACY YOU INTEND
If you don’t do it, who will? Without a plan, you risk leaving a burden for your loved ones. Take the compassionate steps now to be prepared—for yourself and those who matter most to you.

We Can Help
To learn more about how to be charitable through your estate plan, please contact Holly Selvaggi at 216.255.9066 or hselvaggi@hospicewr.org.
Your Legacy Is a Gift

Meaningful Ways to Share Your Story

It stopped Julia in her tracks when she couldn’t find her mom’s recipe for homemade biscuits and gravy. With her mother now in the final stages of dementia, Julia won’t ever know how to make one of her family’s favorite meals.

Ray’s parents have been gone for many years, but it wasn’t until he recently returned to the town where he was born that he realized he didn’t know how they met or why they lived there.

When we talk about estate planning and leaving a legacy, we usually focus solely on final arrangements and finances. But those don’t tell your whole story. Reflect on the values you want to pass down to future generations, and how you might answer these questions for your family and friends.

Meaningful Memories: What are things you want your loved ones to know? How would you like to pass on this information?

• Audio/video recordings and messages preserve the oral tradition of storytelling.
• Handwritten letters, journals and photo captions make your records feel more personal. Your loved ones will treasure your voice and handwriting.
• Create a file where you can collect the personal materials you’d like to share, along with the necessary legal and financial documents.

Charitable Giving: What are the issues that matter to you? How can you extend your support beyond your lifetime?

• Percentages in your will or beneficiary designations keep charitable giving as a proportion of your estate, so you can support your loved ones and organizations like Hospice of the Western Reserve.
• Your donor advised fund can provide current and future giving options, so you can decide what you would like to give now versus later.

An Act of Love

Our new resource *Give Your Family the Gift of Peace of Mind* is more than just a step-by-step guide. By making arrangements in advance, you relieve a burden for those who mean the most to you. To request your FREE copy, complete and return the enclosed reply card.

Helen Kassay
HERITAGE
SOCIETY

The Helen Kassay Heritage Society is named in memory of Helen Kassay, who passed away in 2014 and left a generous gift from her will to Hospice of the Western Reserve. Helen and her husband, Steve, were longtime residents of Euclid. Steve worked for nearly 50 years at Lincoln Electric while Helen was a bookkeeper for Allied Department Stores. Later in life, Helen volunteered for Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Members of the Helen Kassay Heritage Society have created planned gifts for the benefit of Hospice of the Western Reserve. Such thoughtfully planned gifts enable us to provide compassionate care to patients and their families throughout Northern Ohio. You can become a member of the Helen Kassay Heritage Society by letting us know that you have included us in your estate plan. Contact Holly Selvaggi at 216.255.9066 or hselvaggi@hospicewr.org.
Support What Matters Most to You

No matter where you are in life, there are ways for you to support Hospice of the Western Reserve that can also serve you well.

**GIVE TOMORROW**
At Hospice of the Western Reserve, planned giving ensures that we can sustain our mission to improve the quality of life for patients and their families for generations to come. When we know about your future gift, we can plan for that revenue and all of the much needed services it will support for those in need.

*Future gifts include:* gifts in your will or living trust; beneficiaries of your retirement plan, bank or brokerage account, or life insurance policy

Deferred gifts allow you to make a bigger impact than you initially thought possible, perhaps more than your current budget allows. With a deferred gift, you maintain control of your assets with the flexibility to extend your support for those we serve beyond your lifetime.

**GIVE TODAY**
Hospice of the Western Reserve has pressing needs to meet every day. When you give an outright gift, you make our current work possible.

*Current gifts include:* cash or check; appreciated assets, such as securities or real estate; tangible personal property; grants from your donor advised fund; gifts from your IRA

With these gifts, you put your estate to good use now. A current gift enables you to connect with causes and organizations you care about and see the very real difference your generosity makes.

*The Possibilities Are Endless*
If you are passionate about our mission, let's talk. There are many ways to share your support that can meet your needs and ours. Contact us to start the conversation.