

# AUGUST 2021 | YESS PLANNED GIVING NEWSLETTER

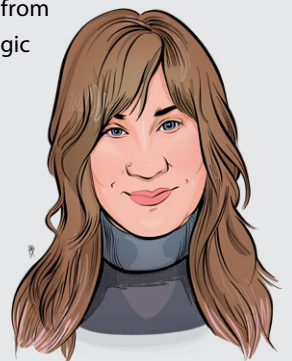
## MESSAGE FROM MARGO

**Hello everyone,**

Welcome to our first Planned Giving newsletter. For us, legacy comes through relationship. Who has touched your life in a deeply influential way, and when have you done the same? For young people experiencing crisis and housing instability, it is often just ONE SINGLE individual who takes an interest, sees their value, or who just believes in them that changes the trajectory of their own self perceptions and future. This is the power of one and the power of an intentional plan to make an impact. Your planned gift has the power to impact the lives of young people in a very real and direct way. This first edition we spotlight planned giving donors Richard O'Connor and Rowena Dixon; we hear from our Director of Program Innovation, Jessica Day, on how planned giving makes an impact in the lives of hundreds of

young people. Also in this edition we hear from YESS Board Trustee, Ayden Harty, on strategic charitable giving and Gryphon Benefits Consultant, Helena Foff, shows how to make a gift through life insurance. Finally, YESS Artistic Programming Facilitator, Hollis Hunter, takes us on a painted walk through some of YESS' own legacy.

**– Margo**



Portrait artwork by Jonathan Busch

## A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

The love of family was one of life's greatest joys for Richard. Blessed with 55 years of marriage to his beloved Barbara, there were many adventures and memories shared together as their family grew with a son, Michael, and two daughters, Marcia and Sharon. There was the very good fortune of having four grandchildren, six greatgrandchildren, a brother, and many extended family members. A real domestic school of life where the seeds of charity in all its many forms could take root and flourish.

YESS is profoundly privileged to share in some thoughts and insights on their father's unique talents, personality and gifts, from Richard's children, who are deeply proud and respectful of his memory.

***Dad inherited a love of sports from his father and enjoyed playing badminton, baseball, golf, curling, and bowling. From his mother, he gained an appreciation for his English language and would correct us when we made mistakes. He would often vent about***

***the overuse of words like absolutely and awesome. Dad was proud of his extensive career as employee relations manager with Imperial Oil and we've heard that he was well liked at the plant.***

***Our "absolutely awesome" father volunteered with Networks (a social club for people who have experienced brain injuries) where he would visit with people or play pool or cards with them. In fact, he was a volunteer at a number of different organizations for many years and a supporter of many others.***



James Richard (Dick) O'Connor  
Photo courtesy of Marcia O'Connor

In life, Richard and Barbara O'Connor wanted to assist, and so they chose to support YESS as annual donors. After Barbara passed in 2010, Richard continued to give.

"A few years ago, when he was preparing his will, Dad had mentioned that he was leaving gifts to a few particular charities that were close to his heart. He felt strongly about helping the young people," Sharon relayed warmly.

"When he learned about the work that YESS was doing, he saw the value of supporting young people to get a chance for a better future. If you can help kids deal with the harsh realities they face, each success is a win for both the youth and the community that we all share. In his will, Dad included a final donation to YESS. Clearly, YESS was an organization he saw as a good value to the youth and to the community," Marcia added.

Thank you to the O'Connor kids—Michael O'Connor, Sharon Adams, and Marcia O'Connor—for sharing their family's story with us.



When one sees the power of what can be accomplished together for young people experiencing crisis in their lives, YESS could not be more grateful for the generosity of Richard and Barbara’s support, and for the forethought of Richard’s legacy gift. It will enable YESS to thrive in its commitment to support and empower the youth who reach out in their need for healing, relief, and guidance.

*Richard and Barbara O'Connor*  
*Photo courtesy of Marcia O'Connor*

## ONCE UPON A TIME: TURNING THE PAGES OF LIVING LEGACY STORIES

*by Jessica Day, Director of Program Innovation*



When I think about the youth who we are serving, the first image I see is that of a story book. Each youth who comes to YESS comes with their own novel of experiences, with many pages and chapters left to write. They are young and their story, while ripe

with history and experiences, is also young. I like this image because it gives purpose to the work we do daily and ties it into the bigger story of the youth’s life. Each interaction is a new page for that youth, and every time we provide safety, stability, consistency, choice, and autonomy, we are providing more space and capacity for them to write a new page. It is humbling to remember that our work is but a page or chapter in a longer story; however, it could be a turning point or a bridge to something profound. The hope and desire to help a youth realize their potential and believe in their own future is the legacy that every youth worker strives to achieve.

The book analogy comes from the knowledge that was shared with me by a youth in 2005. She informed me that books are a useless source of warmth because you have to rip out each page to use as firewood. I asked her how that’s possible, since books are made of paper, and she showed me by burning an empty journal. Turns out that she was right... Books in whole form only burn on the outside. The true inside of the book remains insulated and untouched. I was amazed and she told me she feels like that’s her life: her beginning was burnt and useless, her future felt scary and uncertain but her current story... her current life and the work being done today... will stay with her forever.

I never forgot that.

At YESS, we focus our time and energy on understanding the difference between intention and impact. Everything we do as workers, colleagues, and systemic partners is driven by our intention to have a positive and empowering impact on the lives of other humans: the youth, other staff, or the system as a whole. Our intentions are individual to our own values and core beliefs, and are decided and developed through our education, experiences, and learning opportunities. Our intentions are almost always grounded in helping, supporting, or walking beside others, which is such a beautiful sentiment! However, our intentions are internal and only truly known to ourselves. It is our impact that speaks aloud and builds connections with others. I continuously challenge our staff to believe

in their intention and prepare for the impact it has on others. It is important that we pay attention to how we speak, how we plan, how we interact with others and how we move through the spaces that other people occupy. Whether it is email communication, motivation conversations with a youth, training and learning opportunities with other staff, shift exchanges, or community discussions... we have to pay attention to our intention and the impact we are leaving in those spaces. That impact is what tells our story for us and can often change the narrative of our interactions and experiences.

We learn, in our trauma-informed care education, that agencies need to be consistent, predictable, and transparent for trauma responses to heal and change into something more positive. We had to become predictable in our approach of kindness, empathy, and compassion with the youth. We had to become consistent in our programming, our services, and our actions in walking beside the youth. We had to be transparent in how we operated, including how we’re funded. I have to be honest: when I first came to YESS, I did not understand the fund development side of non-profits. I did not understand how fundraising worked, or contracts or grants. I spent a lot of my first years focused on developing our programs and finding our purpose with the youth: to walk beside them on their journey through their own trauma. It wasn’t until my third AGM that a youth casually commented that, “I’m the greatest story the community has ever paid for.” I realized in that moment that he was right. Donations and funding we received from the community was directly impacting the security and confidence that staff had in having a job, thus inspiring them to do the best possible work with the youth and create a lasting and positive impact with the youth. Having sustainable funding gave us the capacity to evaluate how we can best use the money to create the most effective impact for the youth and the community they were integrating into.

It’s important to me that donors understand that every dollar comes with its own story. Every donation, small or large, comes with an intention behind it and a hopeful impact. When we receive the mail, take a credit card payment, or reconcile our online donations, it is a humble reminder that we are all in this story together. In keeping with my book theme, my knowledge of donations turned my image of YESS, the community, and the youth into a library. We all have our own stories and reasons to give our time, money, or energy; however, it’s the collective histories and experiences and impacts that help educate our future generations of youth and workers. At any point, we can find inspiration in the stories of donors as easily as we find inspiration in the youth. YESS started as a community initiative because we all understood that children needed more. More than their trauma experiences, more than the narrative and stereotypes they were subject to, and more than the limitations that trauma and survival holds them too. They deserve the dignity and autonomy to make choices and mistakes. They deserve the ability to believe there is more to their lives than the present situations they are facing, and



every donation that comes in creates space and capacity to help these youth find safety and stability.

I think a lot about what it must feel like to be young and to turn to a new page in your own story. I have written so many chapters in my own life and I work so hard to furiously scribble down the next chapter; I forget to take time to reflect on how far I have come in this field. It took me 20 years, but I realized that, as much as our youth are on their own individual journeys, they too think about impact and legacy and what stories they are leaving behind as they grow. It is just as important for the youth to make healthy choices that integrate them successfully into neighbourhoods and adulthood, as it is to have left a memory or legacy or story at YESS. They think about their impact almost as much as the staff do. I truly believe that it is human nature to want to matter and to believe that our money, time, and intentions matter for a higher purpose.

Legacy planning is, by far, the greatest example of impact. The process of deciding to plan a legacy gift shows the intention to continuously develop the story of YESS and the potential of

our main characters. The impact may not be felt by the donor themselves, but it is felt by their family, our staff, our youth, and other community members. To commit to a personal intention of giving and philanthropy is a profound example of kindness, compassion, understanding, and walking beside a community initiative. Because that's what our library is built from: a community initiative. Our goals, as such, are to help the youth successfully integrate back into their communities and start to develop their own legacy and libraries. Every human has the instinct to connect, and our youth are growing to develop their own understanding of healthy connection and how broad that can reach. We speak of alumni and the impact that previous clients have on the current generation. We speak of alumni staff and the impact that they have on changing the system and expanding our community partnerships. We speak of legacy donors who help remind us that we are not alone in our purpose and that our cause is one that can be believed in. It inspires a higher purpose, a collective goal to keep doing the hard work and to keep believing that our communities and youth are worth the effort.



## A FORWARD-LOOKING LEGACY

**Radical candor needs to be acknowledged: with respect for the journey that has led to the honest, authentic and direct telling of one's story, with honor for the remarkable courage to communicate uncomfortable and painful truths, and for the openness by which one shares a story. Soft-spoken, genuine, and direct, longtime YESS donor Rowena Dixon shares her perspective on the deeply personal reality and impact of legacy in her life and in the life of her family.**



Photo courtesy of Rowena Dixon

It's not easy to write about one's life, however I feel it's important for the young people accessing the services at YESS to know that there is hope and a way out of their situation.

I grew up in an extremely dysfunctional family: an alcoholic abusive father who beat my mother, sexually abused me, and was just generally all-around mean. "Go get a switch" (branch off a tree) for a whipping was a regular occurrence when we did something wrong in his eyes. My mother left him one day when I was ten and he was threatening to kill her. After five months of being alone with him and my four brothers, I was placed in foster care for a year until I was returned to her and lived on social assistance until I finished high school.

I have been asked a few times in life what my legacy would be, and this is what I tell folks:

When I was 13, I decided that my father was never going to hurt me again. And he didn't... physically... But the emotional scars lived on, until I chose to forgive him on my fortieth birthday as a gift to myself, because I'd come to realize (after a lot of therapy) that the healing is in the forgiving.

When I was 16, I made another choice... to break the cycle of abuse, violence, and poverty. I had been given an opportunity to train to become a supervisor where I worked, but it would have meant quitting school. I knew that if I wanted a better life than I'd had growing up, I needed to do something to change what I knew to be normal but didn't like. I stayed in school and went to college where I got a diploma in Accounting and Finance. I worked in that field for 39 years and was able to retire at the age of 60.

My legacy is for my children... I have three and they never had to experience a life like I did while growing up. My granddaughter will never experience the pain and suffering that I did because her father knows what love feels and looks like. If I've accomplished nothing else in life, this is the most important thing I could have done. People call me resilient, and I suppose I am, because I have turned the bad into something good.

When I was 9 years old, we got a Christmas hamper from an organization that was much like the Santa's Anonymous that exists today, and it included a turkey, oranges, and a gift for each of us children. I never forgot that

someone cared enough about us that they gave us a Christmas that year.

When I grew up and had a successful career, I chose to pay it forward and have always donated as much as I could to the organizations that I believe help the downtrodden the most. YESS is one such organization. I believe if we are fortunate enough to have a decent income and can afford it, we should help the less fortunate. Monthly donations help the organization budget, knowing how much they can count on each month. I also think that it's so important, when looking at your personal estate planning, to keep your plans updated and that they be well thought out. When working with your advisor, it's an opportunity to consider including a gift to any charities that you feel strongly about in your will.



Photo courtesy of Rowena Dixon

The youth who access YESS today are no different than I was as a youth, and I am now a respected member of society. Life is about choices, I believe, but it doesn't come easy and sometimes youth just need a leg up and a helping hand. That's where YESS and the donations to fund the organization come in.

*Life is full of changes, and it's important that your estate plan reflects your current situation.*

*Shelly K. Chamaschuk is a Barrister & Solicitor with Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP. Her practice focuses on corporate/commercial matters, business and succession planning, estate planning, including Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, Personal Directives, family trusts, and estate administration. She is their firm's Wills, Estates & Trusts Team Lead. Shelly kindly agreed to write a guest article for us. For more information on wills in Alberta, read her article "[Do I Need a Will?](#)"*



Shelly K. Chamaschuk, Barrister & Solicitor



# MAKING AN IMPACT WITH STRATEGIC CHARITABLE GIVING

by Ayden Harty, Investment Advisor, BComm

Charitable giving is a deeply rewarding experience that benefits our communities and the causes that are dear to us. The government encourages giving by providing a variety of tax incentives for individuals looking to give back. There are many types of charitable gifts, each with its own advantages and tax implications. It is important to review and understand the basic features of each type of gift so that you may choose the option that best suits your needs and financial circumstances.

## Donation Tax Credit

All donations by individuals to a registered charity in Canada are eligible for the donation tax credit. In Alberta donations up to \$200 receive a combined (provincial and federal) tax credit of \$50 (15% federally and 10% provincially).

When donating more than \$200 in Alberta, the provincial tax credit jumps from 10% to 21% and depending on your income tax bracket, the federal tax credit jumps from 15% to 29% (or 33% if your income exceeds \$210,371).

## In-Kind Donations

In addition to the donation tax credit, in-kind donations of property, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or segregated funds that have increased significantly in value are perfect candidates for tax incentivized giving. Gifting these securities directly to a registered charity in-kind provides a special tax treatment and exemption from capital gains that cannot be taken advantage of by selling the security and donating the proceeds.

To understand the impact of donating securities in-kind, assume "Etta" owns a mutual fund that has a fair market value of \$100,000 that she purchased many years ago for \$20,000. She is considering donating the mutual fund to charity.

If Etta sells the mutual fund first and donates the sale proceeds, she would realize a capital gain of \$80,000 and pay tax on half of that capital gain. In this case she would be looking at approximately \$18,000 in capital gains and a tax benefit of approximately \$32,000. Instead, Etta could avoid selling the mutual fund by donating the fund in-kind and the capital gains tax would be eliminated. She would be entitled to the full tax receipt of \$100,000, a net tax benefit of \$50,000 on her gift. Her decision to donate in-kind saved her \$18,000 in tax!

If we consider that some of Etta's investments have not performed as anticipated, she can also donate any depreciated securities to charity and claim the capital loss to be used against either capital gains realized in the current year or carried back and used against any gains she may have realized in the prior three years. The capital loss may also be carried forward indefinitely to future years.

Charitable giving has a real and positive impact on our communities, the organizations we support, and ourselves as individuals. The government has recognized the value that giving has on society and provided incentives that we can all use to gain the maximum value for our dollars. In-kind donations are a fantastic example of these incentives. If giving is a priority to you, reach out to YESS and the tax experts in your life to fully explore tax incentivized strategies for giving.



Donating a gift of publicly traded securities or mutual funds to YESS is a simple, cost-effective, and tax-efficient way to make a charitable donation during your lifetime or through your will, and YESS receives the full value of the gift.

How to donate stock from a non-registered account during your lifetime

It is important to know that the ownership of the shares must be transferred in-kind to realize a tax benefit. Have your broker transfer your shares in-kind directly to YESS through our CIBC Investor's Edge account using a **Letter of Authorization/Direction to Transfer Securities.**

How to donate stock from a non-registered account through your will

If you plan to make a gift of publicly traded securities through your will to YESS, the correct legal name to include is:

Y.E.S.S.: Youth Emergency Shelter Society of Edmonton o/a (YESS) Youth Empowerment and Support Services

9310 82 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T6C 0Z6

CRA Registered Charitable No.: 12953-7437 RR 0001

Ayden is an Investment Advisor with the Harty Investment Group at CIBC Wood Gundy. He has a passion for finance and portfolio management and has enjoyed every moment of his 8 years of experience in the financial services industry.

The Harty Investment Group provides wholistic wealth management through customized portfolio management, estate and trust planning, tax planning, charitable giving, intergenerational wealth transfer strategies and business succession planning.

Outside of the office, Ayden currently serves on the Board of Directors at Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS) and enjoys spraying golf balls, wrestling his four month old daughter Colette, and sharing a glass of wine and a meal on the patio with his wife Brittany.



Ayden Harty, Investment Advisor, BComm  
HARTY INVESTMENT GROUP  
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PRIVATE WEALTH  
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A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE: HOW MAKING A MODEST ANNUAL INVESTMENT CAN HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR LEGACY OBJECTIVES

by Helena Foff, Consultant, B.Sc, RHU

Anyone who has made donations to their favorite charity, either regularly or just once, likely wishes their dollar could go further and have more of an impact. With the uncertainties and challenges of the global pandemic adding financial stress to many individuals and corporations, wouldn't it be nice to find a way to amplify the amount of our charitable gifts?

Using life insurance products is an excellent way to create a more significant legacy while also providing tax benefits, now or in the future. Oftentimes, philanthropic aspirations are far greater than our current financial capacity would allow. However, with the benefit of the expert guidance and collaborative conversation with your trusted professional, you can be supported to explore and achieve your well-planned philanthropic goals.

Some options to consider:

Ownership of a life insurance policy by charity

1. Donation of a new policy:

Likely the most widely known method of charitable giving with life insurance: a new life insurance policy is taken out by the donor whereby the charity is both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. Essentially, the donor purchases a new life insurance policy and pays the first premium. The donor then donates the policy to the charity and transfers ownership of the policy to the charity. The charity becomes the new owner of the policy and is named the beneficiary. Depending on the terms in the policy contract, the charity may also have access to the cash value within the policy. Premiums paid by the donor would be considered a charitable donation and, after receiving

confirmation of payment, the charity would issue a tax receipt to the donor.

2. Donation of an existing policy:

Sometimes a person's need for life insurance changes over their lifetime, and for several reasons, coverage is no longer required. It is possible for the owner to gift the policy to their charity of choice in return for a charitable donation receipt. This transfer of ownership is deemed a disposition for tax purposes—the difference between the cash surrender value and the ACB of the policy will be taxable to the donor. There are several reasons why donating an existing life policy is advantageous:

- Premiums paid by the donor will qualify as a charitable donation and will be eligible for tax credits
- Because the charity owns the policy and is also the beneficiary, proceeds paid at death will bypass probate
- If the policy includes cash surrender value, the charity can use this as cash or to obtain a loan

These are all excellent incentives to discuss and consider the donation of an in-force life insurance policy!

Ownership of a life insurance policy by individual

In this scenario, the donor retains ownership of the policy and names the charity as the beneficiary. This gives the donor complete control of the policy and allows for changes to the beneficiary at any time with a simple change form. Given that the proceeds are paid under a beneficiary designation, there is the added advantage of bypassing



probate. Although no tax credits will be available during the donor's lifetime, it provides an opportunity to reduce income tax in the year of death.

Every gift to YESS begins with a capital question: How can I best make a difference in the lives of the youth? If the idea of making a gift of life insurance resonates with you, reach out to the insurance professionals in your life to further discuss ways to assist YESS. Thank you!

Summary: Charitable Giving Through Life Insurance

Source: SunLife Planned Giving – A Guide for Advisors October 2020

Opportunity	Owner of Policy	Beneficiary	Taxpayer's tax benefit during life	Tax benefit at death
#1 – Donate a new policy	Charity	Charity	Annual premium and value on transfer is a donation	None
#2 – Donate an existing policy	Charity	Charity	Annual premium and value on transfer is a donation	None
#3 – Donate the death benefit proceeds	Taxpayer	Charity	None	Death benefit is a donation



Helena Foff, Consultant, B.Sc, RHU



Helena completed her Bachelor of Science degree at University of Alberta. In 2006, she transitioned to the insurance industry as living benefits manager with one of Canada's leading insurance carriers. Helena has earned the designation of registered health underwriter, and she brings a commitment to excellence in client relationships.

Gryphon is a leader in providing employee benefits, consulting, and individual insurance protection. Gryphon works with clients to ensure best-in-class solutions and is dedicated to helping you protect your future.

Helena's passions are truly diverse, including volleyball, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and violin. She has managed to visit all seven continents, finishing with a trek to Antarctica in 2007. For some "downtime", Helena sips lattes and chases after her three children: Owen, Leah and Sarah.

Source Acknowledgment:

- 1. Kluwer, Wolters CCH 5th Edition (2014), Estate Planning with Life Insurance
- 2. RBC Charitable Giving Guide, 22528 Charitable Giving (03/2018)
- 3. SunLife Planned Giving – A Guide for Advisors October 2020



# PAINT ME A STORY

Hollis Hunter, Artistic Programming Facilitator

Hollis Hunter graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Spring 2020. His personal practice and research revolve around identity politics: He navigates the challenging and rewarding question of how to visually represent 2SLGBTQ+ identities, communities, bodies, and experiences. As the Artistic Programming Facilitator at YESS, he engages with our youth in daily creative activities and works behind-the-scenes to connect youth artists to broader arts opportunities.

Where did we start? What do we want to leave behind? Join Artistic Programming Facilitator, Hollis Hunter, as he brings YESS’ flagship building to life. Contemplate four decades of living history through the vivid progression of brick, foliage, figures, signs, and sky—and the burning question: “What is legacy?”

> **CLICK TO WATCH**



Hollis Hunter, Artistic Programming Facilitator



Hollis Hunter,  
Where We Started, 2021,  
Acrylic on canvas, 30x20”

# TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LEGACY

Have you considered including YESS in your estate plans? You can make a bigger impact than you ever imagined, while receiving benefits in return. We’d be happy to work with you, your family, and your advisors on a confidential basis to ensure that your gift meets your philanthropic goals.

If you have already provided for a legacy gift to YESS in your estate plans, we’d be delighted to learn in confidence about your future

plans. Thank you for your life-changing gift! It will surely help to empower youth to heal, improve their well-being, find connection, stability – and to realize healthy futures.

To learn more about making a legacy gift, please contact Eileen Papulkas by phone at **780-468-7070 x298** or by email at **[eileen.papulkas@yess.org](mailto:eileen.papulkas@yess.org)**

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