

## Kendal at Lexington's Gifts Grow: Testimony from an Anonymous Donor

The following interview reflects a conversation in August 2010.

### **What made you decide to make a gift?**

We have witnessed the role that generosity has played at Kendal since the beginning. If Fred Bartenstein had not made his gift, none of us would be living in this community today. If Sunnyside House had not been restored through a \$1.7 million dollar gift, we would not enjoy its gracious setting for community-wide activities. If folks in the larger Lexington community had not raised seed money when Kendal was just a dream, this place would not exist today. If Jean Kibbee had not given a gift for the Borden Center, it would be much less inviting today. If the Tutwilers had not envisioned the difference a gift could make for the library, none of us would be enjoying that wonderful space as it is today. We want to do our part.

### **What type of gift did you give?**

We believe in the value of the Fellowship Fund to create the kind of community we want to live in—a place where every member is secure from financial setback because funds are set aside to provide a grant for the monthly fee if it is needed. Or just in case someone outlives the ability to pay, we wanted to play a role in growing these funds. So we gave a gift for this purpose.

### **What made you think of giving real estate for a gift?**

We have a philosophy that we are just enjoying things for awhile; we see ourselves as stewards and not permanent owners. We had property that we weren't using anymore--we had not used it in more than a year. We sat down and thought it through. Nobody in the family wanted the property. We decided it was time to release it and let someone else enjoy this property that we have loved. We realized that giving it up would also mean handing off the burden of ownership. So we thought about using it to make this gift to the Fellowship Fund.

### **But isn't the process of making a gift of real estate complicated?**

Actually, when we look back on it, the whole process was surprisingly easy! Kendal Charitable Funds helped us, guiding us through the steps from the first impulse to the final transfer of property. They have experts who have done many of these gifts, and know how to make the process straightforward.

### **Is there any advantage to you as the donor of a planned gift?**

Yes, but not immediately. Since we have a deferred charitable gift annuity, we will wait a year before any payments begin. But we have the tax advantage now, and once our payments start, they will continue throughout our lives. Now we don't have any of the expenses related to the property. We were telling a nephew about the arrangement and he said a little wistfully, "That's a good deal!" We think he is right.

### **What would you say to someone who is thinking about a gift to benefit Kendal?**

"This is not our first gift to Kendal, so that says something positive about the experience of giving. Gifts like this aren't for everyone. Many aren't in circumstances to make it possible—they just can't do it. But if you can, it gives a great deal of satisfaction."