



# FUTURE *of* HEALING

## It's Easy to Take Action

Including the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation in your will or trust is an affordable way to give and a great way to plan. To learn more, please contact us at 703.717.4438 or

[LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com](mailto:LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com).

## 3 Factors That Signal the Need for a Trust

Many people ask this important question when thinking about creating or updating an estate plan: “Do I need a trust or is my will enough to provide support for the people and causes that I love most?”

A will is the backbone of your estate plan. It names an executor to oversee how your assets are distributed to loved ones or a charitable organization like the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation. A will also names a guardian for any minor children.

A living trust functions like a will in that it directs how your assets will ultimately be distributed. The key difference is that you transfer your assets into the trust during your lifetime.

The main benefit of a living trust is that it saves your family time and money by avoiding probate after your passing. (Probate is the legal process needed to validate a person's will and allows for any assets to be distributed.)

Whether you need a living trust is entirely dependent upon your unique circumstances. Your estate planning attorney should consider three factors, so if you answer “yes” to any of these questions, a trust might be the right option for you.

- Do you want the right to change or cancel the trust at any time, and to act as your own trustee?
- Are you looking to avoid probate to keep your distributions private and speed up the settlement process?
- Do you have real estate located out of state?

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The decision on whether to establish a trust shouldn't be taken lightly. If you're interested in establishing a trust, you should seek the advice of an attorney in a state where you reside.

# Take the Complexity Out of Giving From Your IRA

Turn Your Retirement Savings Into Brighter Futures for the Patients We Serve

After years of working hard and saving diligently, retirement is your chance to do what you want. Perhaps that's traveling, spending more time with loved ones, or volunteering and becoming more active in Northern Virginia.

Many people also use their retirement years to make a lasting difference to the organizations and causes that have been important in their lives. One easy way is to make a gift to the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation directly from an IRA.

## A Simpler Way to Support the Hospital

Perhaps in past years, you've made a gift to the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation from the distribution you've received from your IRA. At the time, you paid income tax on the distribution and then took a charitable deduction when you itemized your taxes the following year.

Now there is an easier way to give through your IRA. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift directly to the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation from your IRA. Because we receive

the gift directly from your IRA, the distribution bypasses you entirely. This means you avoid having to recognize the income in the first place and the gift can satisfy part or all of your required minimum distribution.



## Partner With Us

You don't need to be an expert in retirement planning to make a gift. Let us walk you through your options and tell you more about the difference your gift can make at the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation. Contact us at 703.717.4438 or [LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com](mailto:LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com) to get started.

## NOT 70½ YET?

You can still support the Hospital with your IRA. Simply name the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation as a beneficiary of your account, and we'll receive the funds, or the portion you designate, after your lifetime. And it will pass to the Foundation free of estate and income tax.

## Grateful Donors



### Russ Thrall

#### Virginia Hospital Center Means So Much to Me

Russ Thrall is a former president of the Virginia Hospital Center Auxiliary and still volunteers with the organization because it means so much to him.

"It's a wonderful hospital from inside and outside. I'm a former patient, and my family has been treated here," he says. "I've had my knees replaced, my hip replaced. They've saved my life a couple of times."

He contributes not just his time but also gives financially through IRA charitable gifts.

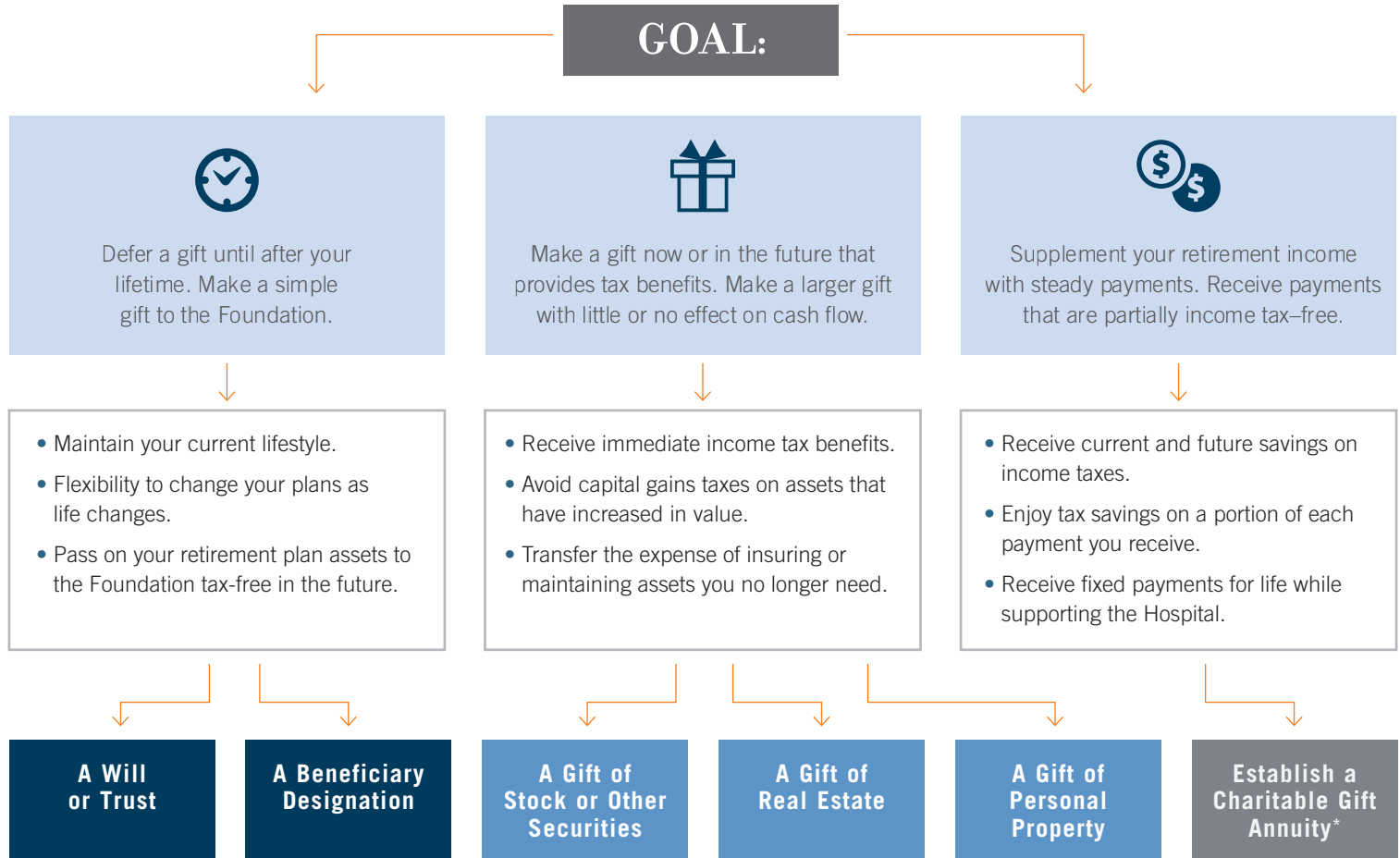
“Giving through my IRA is an easy way to support the Hospital. It satisfies my mandatory distribution requirement and will reduce taxes on my estate and to my heirs.”

—Russ Thrall

# Review Your Giving Options

## Simple Ways to Show You Care

You may already have decided that you want to support Virginia Hospital Center in the future but need to keep a watchful eye on your retirement plan. The question is how to do both. Based on your personal goals, the first step is to determine what fits your needs. The chart below will help walk you through some popular giving options.



\*Charitable gift annuities are not available in all states or through all organizations. Please contact us if you are interested in a gift annuity.



## Donna Ricks

### A Gift in Honor of Her Wonderful Care

Donna Ricks has lived near Virginia Hospital Center for over 40 years.

"I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful Hospital with top-notch doctors close by in our Arlington community," Donna says. "I established my charitable gift annuity with a gift in honor of Dr. Suzanne Wittig for her wonderful care. I am very grateful for the access to high-quality patient care in my community."

By establishing a charitable gift annuity with the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation, Donna receives quarterly payments for the rest of her life, enjoys an immediate tax deduction and, most importantly, supports Virginia Hospital Center.

**“This type of gift not only benefits the Hospital, but it gives you a tax break as well as providing a surprise every quarter when the annuity payment is received in your checking account!”**

—Donna Ricks

# Virginia Hospital Center Earns 2015 Leapfrog Top Hospital Award



The Leapfrog Group has named Virginia Hospital Center to its annual list of Top Hospitals. This elite distinction is awarded nationwide to hospitals that have committed to transparency and demonstrated particular excellence in hospital safety and quality. Virginia Hospital Center was the only Top Urban Hospital in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to be recognized as a Leapfrog Top Hospital.

“The Leapfrog Group’s Top Hospital Award means that Virginia Hospital Center is one of the safest and highest caliber hospitals in the country,” says James B. Cole, president and CEO of Virginia Hospital Center Health System. “It gives me great pride to see our staff recognized nationally, and I thank our employees, physicians, donors and volunteers for putting our patients first and making every effort to deliver the highest quality and safest care possible.”

Virginia Hospital Center was one of only 98 Top Hospitals recognized from across the country. The list includes:

- 24 Top Rural Hospitals
- 12 Top Children’s Hospitals
- 62 Top Urban Hospitals (Virginia Hospital Center was recognized in this group of superior hospitals.)

“Leapfrog’s Top Hospital Award is widely acknowledged as one of the most prestigious distinctions any hospital can

achieve in the United States,” says Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “Top Hospitals have lower infection rates, better outcomes, decreased the length of stay and fewer readmissions. By achieving Top Hospital status, Virginia Hospital Center has proven it prioritizes the safety of its patients, is committed to transparency and provides exemplary care for families and patients in the metro D.C. region. I congratulate the board, staff and clinicians of Virginia Hospital Center whose efforts achieved these results.”

The selection is based on the results of The Leapfrog Group’s annual hospital survey, which measures hospitals’ performance on patient safety and quality, focusing on three critical areas of hospital care: how patients fare, resource use and management structures established to prevent errors. Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including survival rates for high-risk procedures and a hospital’s ability to prevent medication errors.



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*If you wish to be removed from our fundraising mailing list, please contact us by email at [LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com](mailto:LegacyPlanning@virginiahospitalcenter.com) or at 703.717.4438.*

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