



GENEVA FOUNDATION

of PRESBYTERIAN HOMES

# NEWS UPDATE

THE GENEVA FOUNDATION TRANSFORMS LIVES BY ENRICHING PRESBYTERIAN HOMES

COMMUNITIES THROUGH GENEROUS AND RESPONSIBLE PHILANTHROPY.

## Humanitarian's Gift Creates an Enduring Legacy of Compassion

The word **humanitarian** is an adjective that describes “one having concern for or helping to improve the welfare and happiness of people. And/or relating to ethical or theological humanitarianism. Pertaining to the saving of human lives or to the alleviation of suffering.”

This definition perfectly describes Anna Boekstegen, a former 1020 Grove/Westminster Place resident who passed away in June 2024. She was a Geneva Foundation New Founder.

Originating from Germany, and one of seven children, Anna considered herself fortunate to receive a university education. She graduated from college and then earned her master's degree in Philology, Latin and French. She initially became a high school French and Latin teacher in Germany.

Anna had a clear understanding of responsibility as a world citizen and a Christian. WWII in Germany shaped her childhood. After the war, she drew inspiration from the Belgian-founded international lay organization, Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) — which became a major influence and support in her life. Her association with ICA enabled her to travel throughout the world and make lifelong friends.

Arriving to the United States in 1958, Anna worked at the International Student Center-Chicago. She later taught at the Center for Intercultural Education-Evanston, Loyola University-Chicago, and Regina Dominican High School-Wilmette.



Anna Boekstegen

Ever the humanitarian; Anna was faithfully active at St. John XXIII Parish, Evanston. She spent decades dedicated to peace and social justice issues, climate change and the needs of asylum seekers. She cared deeply for her family and close companions, often supporting others through life challenges.

Anna had foresight to plan the future and bequeathed her TIAA retirement assets to the Geneva Foundation. Ever caring about the welfare of others, she demonstrated her faith in the charitable mission of Presbyterian Homes and the care provided to vulnerable residents. May God bless Anna abundantly for her faith, grace, kindness and compassion.

### Inside:

Don't Ignore Your Online Accounts ■ Four Myths About Your Will ■ You Decide How You Want to Change Lives



# Don't Ignore Your Online Accounts

Have you set up your will or trust? If so, great!

Named beneficiaries for your retirement accounts and life insurance? If you have, you're on a roll.

Now, how about your online accounts? Hmm...

A trusted loved one will need to access those accounts in an emergency. And if you are the trusted loved one for a close friend or family member, you'll want to know that information when the time comes.

The best way to give your loved ones peace of mind about your digital estate: Make a list.

## Consider these categories:

- Desktop and/or laptop computer login
- Email
- Online banking, billing and investments
- Insurance policies
- Medical and dental
- Utilities (electric, water, internet)
- Money transfer (PayPal, Venmo)
- Shopping
- Social media
- Streaming services
- Subscriptions (newspapers, magazines, blogs, music, gaming)

**IMPORTANT REMINDER!** Also, list your smartphone and/or tablet passcodes. It's unlikely your loved ones will be able to get your device unlocked without them.

## Once your list is complete, here's what to do next:

1. List your username (not always your email address) and password for every online account.
2. Place the list in a secure, easily accessible location like a fireproof safe. (If you use a password management program, put its name, URL and password in this secure location.) **Note:** Do not put this list in your will, which could become public record when filed.
3. Tell a trusted loved one the secure location and, if necessary, its combination or key. Or leave written instructions about the location's whereabouts with the trusted individual.

When you're contemplating your estate plan, let us know if you're considering a gift to us in your will. We'd be happy to answer your questions and discuss your many options. Contact Lisa Schiro at 847-979-3922 or [Lschiro@presbyterianhomes.org](mailto:Lschiro@presbyterianhomes.org).

# Four Myths About Your Will

Do you have a will? If so, you get an A+ because many Americans don't have this critical document.

If you don't have one and aren't sure you need one—or if you do have one but are wary of leaving a gift to a nonprofit like the Geneva Foundation of Presbyterian Homes in it—check out this list of myths.

MYTH	REALITY
<b>1. I'm not rich, so I don't need a will.</b>	You've worked hard and made smart decisions. If you own a home, a car and/or other items of value, you need a will. It allows you—not the state where you reside—to decide what happens to your assets when you're gone.
<b>2. I'm young, and wills are only for people well into retirement.</b>	Every adult should have a will. You know how important it is to provide for not only a spouse or partner but also children, pets, friends and extended family members. Your documented direction can comfort your loved ones during a difficult time and provide clarity when they need it most.
<b>3. Creating a will is time-consuming and expensive.</b>	Creating a will has never been so convenient and affordable. If the cost is a concern, you can create a simple estate plan using free tools online. A good estate planning attorney is recommended if you have a large estate, complex assets or unique circumstances.
<b>4. My loved ones might get upset if I choose to give part of their inheritance to a nonprofit that is important to me.</b>	They may be more supportive than you expect, especially once they learn that the Geneva Foundation of Presbyterian Homes is deeply important to you. Including your favorite causes in your will is your way of creating a personal legacy of support that will make a transformational impact for years to come. Talk with them or leave a "legacy letter" with your will that thoughtfully explains your wishes.

## WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP

If you have questions about the best ways to ensure your loved ones know your plans to leave a legacy gift with the Geneva Foundation of Presbyterian Homes, contact Lisa Schiro at 847-979-3922 or [Lschiro@presbyterianhomes.org](mailto:Lschiro@presbyterianhomes.org).

# You Decide How You Want to Change Lives

We know someone whose steady, dedicated partnership has helped make incredible things happen.

## You.

Like Anna Boekstegen, who is featured on the front cover, you believe in our mission to create vibrant communities for older adults so much that you have been a loyal partner in helping us help others. We can't thank friends like you enough.

Now you have the power to help those we serve even more. You can choose to make an impact today, establish a legacy gift for tomorrow...or do both. We would be delighted to help create a plan that works for your lifestyle and honors your values.

### Make a Difference Now:

1. Use charitable funds you've already set aside (and simplify your recordkeeping) by recommending a grant to Geneva Foundation of Presbyterian Homes from your *donor advised fund*.
2. If you're 70½ or older, save taxes on *IRA* withdrawals by making a distribution directly to a Presbyterian Homes community. You don't get taxed on the gift, and neither do we!

### Make a Difference Later:

3. Create a gift with just one sentence—and without giving up any assets today—by putting us in your *will or trust*.
4. Consider one of the quickest, easiest ways to give a gift: naming the Geneva Foundation as full or partial *beneficiary* of a retirement account, life insurance policy or other asset.

## Start Changing Lives Today!

Our FREE guide *12 Ways to Make a Meaningful Difference* gives details on the four gift options above, plus eight more. That's a dozen ideas to help you choose the most beneficial way for you to leave your legacy.

Request your FREE guide today to learn more. Simply complete and return the enclosed card.



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## HOW TO CONTACT US

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