

Planning with **VISION**

Inspired to **Give Back**

Bob Kovitz remembers the family doctor calling his mother into the exam room. “Claire,” said the doctor, “this is not your fault.”

That diagnosis of Crohn’s disease at 24 years of age was just one moment in Bob’s life that has included decades of pain, hospitalizations, weight loss, surgeries, and drug treatments. Equally important, though, was the reassurance to Bob’s mother that she had not failed as a parent.

“Given the chance, my mother would feel guilty about everything,” jokes Bob.

Soon, Bob connected with the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation.

“It was a relief to know that there were others out there with similar stories,” says Bob.

For nearly 50 years, Bob has depended on the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation for up-to-date information and advice and has supported the IBD community, including leading a support group in the Tucson area.

Even with Crohn’s, Bob has led a full life as a business owner, city planner, university instructor, decorated US Army veteran, orchestra administrator, and as a professional actor and musician. Now, says Bob, he’s prepared to give back to the Foundation in a much bigger way.

Bob has committed to donating a majority of his required annual IRA distributions to the Foundation.



Bob Kovitz

And he’s working with his trust attorney to ensure that the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation benefits from his estate upon his passing.

“My dream is that no person will ever receive an IBD diagnosis without also knowing that there are successful treatments and cures,” says Bob. He knows that supporting the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation’s planned giving program will help secure a better future for those with IBD long after he has stepped off the stage.



Bob is providing for the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation’s mission through his retirement account. For more information on how you can make a future gift to the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation in this way, see the reverse side of the newsletter, or contact Susan Carriker at 252-597-5085.

CEO Grateful for **Planned Giving Donors**

"I wish I could have thanked her personally."

This was the reaction from President & CEO of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Michael Osso, after learning that Ellen Hochberg, a retired teacher, had left her retirement account to the Foundation at her death. Ellen's gift came as a surprise, as she had not shared her plans with Foundation staff before her passing.

"Planned gifts are significant and impactful commitments our supporters are making to the Foundation. We are so grateful for their generosity," says Osso. "We only hope to have the opportunity to thank all these supporters before receiving their gifts. Too

often, we are not aware of their plans until the gift arrives, and we have missed the opportunity to express our gratitude."

Individuals who inform the Foundation of their planned gift commitment become members of the Founders Society and are kept updated on the Foundation's progress towards new treatments and cures.

If you have made provisions for the Foundation in your estate plan and have yet to inform us, or if you would like information on how to do so, please contact Susan Carriker, Director, National Advancement & Planned Giving, at scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org or 252-597-5085.

An Easy Way to **Support Our Efforts**



"I would love to make a planned gift to the Foundation, but isn't that expensive? And complicated?"

The concept of including a charity in your future plans may seem overwhelming or something unaffordable. Easy and convenient,

designating a charity as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or individual retirement account (IRA) is an option that may fit your needs.

Including the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan supports our mission,

while reducing the tax burden to your estate. As a tax-exempt charity, we will receive the gift tax-free, allowing us to use the full amount in our effort to cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Individuals designated as recipients of funds in retirement plans, however, are required to pay taxes on the money they receive. Therefore, gifting these assets to a charity helps to reduce the tax burden on your loved ones.

You can update your plan's beneficiary designation easily through your plan's provider, at no cost. By supporting the Foundation in this way, you leave a legacy that demonstrates your commitment to curing IBD and improving patients' lives.



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A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General's website (www.charitiesnys.com) or, upon request, by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us at 733 Third Avenue, Suite 510, New York, NY 10017-3218. You also may obtain information on charitable organizations from the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com or (212) 416-8401.