

# Planning with **VISION**

## Longtime Connection to the Foundation Leads to Future Gift

Victoria Sears was in the ninth grade, age 14, when she was diagnosed with IBD. Her physician connected her and her family to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's chapter in Northeast Ohio. From attending lectures given by IBD researchers to participating in Take Steps, the connection with the Foundation was a mainstay for the family, shares Sally Sears, Victoria's mother. Victoria even remembers volunteering at the local chapter office one summer, doing odd jobs like stuffing envelopes.

One of the most meaningful connections coordinated by the Foundation was one she had with another IBD patient—a pen pal Victoria stayed in touch with for years. Though Victoria participated in a group at school for children with severe and chronic illnesses, the connection with her pen pal was more personal, as both lived with IBD and shared similar experiences.

Sally and Larry are grateful that neither of their other two children, nor any of their grandchildren, have been diagnosed with IBD. They are grateful that Victoria has managed her disease relatively well and is currently in remission. And they know how devastating IBD can be for families not as fortunate as theirs.

The Seares are appreciative of the support and the community the Foundation has provided to Victoria



*Larry, Sally and Victoria Sears Goldman  
are grateful to the Foundation*

and their family. To show their appreciation, Larry and Sally have included an unrestricted estate gift to the Foundation as part of their revocable trust.

“We decided to include the Foundation in our plans because of Victoria. And because we know the importance of the research being done to find a cure for the disease,” says Larry. In addition, the Seares support the Foundation annually, providing funds for critical programming and research.

For information on how you can include the Foundation in your planning for the future, contact Susan Carriker, Senior Director, National Advancement & Planned Giving, at [scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org](mailto:scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org) or 252-597-5085.

# Me and IBD—Victoria Shares Her Story in a Book

Being a young teen with IBD can be lonely, and aspects of living with the disease may be challenging for young patients to vocalize. For an assignment in a ninth-grade biology class, Victoria wrote and illustrated a children's book, something that could be shared with other children who were on an IBD journey like her. She shared her book, *Me and IBD*, with the psychologist affiliated with her pediatric GI clinic. With the doctor's help, the book was added to the shelves of the GI patient library.

Nancy Seeger, health librarian of the Family Resource Center at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, remembers the library well. "Patients and their families had access to resources like books and videos to help them understand their disease. A book written by a patient would have offered unique insight for others," she says.

Victoria is now a mom to three children. Her eldest daughter "often asks to read it," she shares, "and I'm glad to have it available to help her learn about my story."



An illustration from Victoria's book—*Me and IBD*

## Bequest Gifts—What Are My Options?

Including a gift to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation in your will is easy to do. Gifts made through your will allow you the flexibility to make changes as your life circumstances change. There are several options for those considering a gift through their will:

- *Specific bequests* are gifts through your will of a specific amount or property. Specific bequests are paid before any other type of bequest.
- *Percentage bequests* designate a percentage of your estate to be distributed to a beneficiary. Percentage bequests assure that all those you wish to benefit through your estate will receive a portion of your estate. Your intent regarding distributions is main-

tained, whether your estate increases or decreases in value.

- *Residual bequests* are gifts of any assets remaining after all specific bequests, taxes, and administrative expenses have been paid, ensuring all your personal bequests will be satisfied first.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is grateful for the bequest gifts we receive from generous friends each year. For more information about including the Foundation in your future plans, contact Susan Carriker, Senior Director, National Advancement & Planned Giving, at [scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org](mailto:scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org) or 252-597-5085.



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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](http://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](http://www.charitiesnys.com) or 212-416-8401.