Foundation Forward

Estate Gift: Our Way to Keep Giving
By Mary H. Smart, Brain Research Foundation Trustee

The hope of cures for brain-related illnesses has been of interest to my husband Brad and me for many reasons. Brad has a Ph.D. in psychology, and as a speech pathologist, I also worked with autistic and delayed language children. But our interest is also very personal as one of our siblings was treated for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia before ultimately committing suicide. So, we have witnessed the complexity and mysteries of how the mind works and felt the sadness and despair of not always being able to help. Almost everyone we know has some family member or close friend who has suffered from neurologic disorders—Alzheimer’s disease, epilepsy, schizophrenia, Parkinson’s disease, or other neurological challenges impacted by the BRF’s investment in research.

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As a volunteer working with a mental health organization in the 1980s, I became aware of the Brain Research Foundation and Brad and I have been involved ever since. The mission of the Foundation to support cutting-edge neuroscience is important. But our ongoing financial support is due to BRF’s record of achievement—research which will lead to novel treatments for and prevention of neurological disorders. We are also impressed with the BRF’s educational programs for researchers and the general public. The fact that the Brain Research Foundation provides research funding to the best and brightest neuroscientists in greater Chicago, and now throughout the U.S., is unique and fantastic. We are excited to share this information with everyone in our lives.

Meeting brilliant research grant recipients and learning of their accomplishments has been inspiring to us, and many times we’ve felt that the least we can do is leave part of our estate to the BRF. Our continuing financial support and planned giving gives us comfort that in a small way we might contribute to future breakthroughs.

With your help, the Brain Research Foundation continues to grow, bringing us steps closer to unravelling the mysteries of the brain. We thank you for your support and encourage you to help us spread the word about the important work we’re doing.

Ways of Giving

There are several ways in which donors can participate in the work of the Brain Research Foundation.

Direct Gifts Contributions are accepted in the form of cash, check, credit card, and stock.

Matching Gifts If you work for one of the growing number of companies that has a Matching Gift Program, the amount of your gift could be multiplied. Please check with your Human Resources Office to see if your company offers this benefit.

Planned Giving Long-term estate and financial planning can enable you to make a substantial contribution to the Brain Research Foundation. Examples of planned gifts include: bequests, life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and charitable gift annuities.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts You can make a donation in memory of someone or give a gift in honor of a special person.

For more information call the BRF at 312.759.5150 or visit us at www.theBRF.org.

To join Mary and Brad Smart in making a planned gift to the Brain Research Foundation, contact us at 312.759.5150 or let us know how to contact you on the enclosed envelope. Estate gifts are one type of planned gift. The BRF recommends you involve your financial advisor or attorney in determining the best vehicle to fulfill your wishes.