



Choosing Bridge Communities

Zed and Cheryl Francis

We have supported Bridge Communities for many years—through direct donations and as part of our long-standing sponsorship of a Bridge family through our local church. So, as we drafted our will and estate plan, it was natural for us to think about including Bridge Communities in our planning. We decided to fund a new charitable foundation in our estate and have the proceeds administered by our two sons and a professional executor. While the size of our overall foundation will depend upon many factors, we have



drafted it to support educational and charitable organizations that enable people to make a better life for themselves. Bridge Communities certainly represents one of the organizations that have demonstrated a successful track record to provide a better life for disadvantaged people by helping people help themselves. We have seen the dramatic impact Bridge has made on the lives of the people involved, including the client family, the mentors and the entire support group.

To ensure that the foundation grants have the impact we intend, we have decided to have our foundation “sunset” after ten years—so, the proceeds will be fully distributed over that time horizon. While there are many ways to think about creating your estate plan, we decided to have our resources continue to support organizations that we have been actively involved with during our lives. This simply made the most sense to us. Plus, it has the possible additional benefit to directly involve our two sons in the tradition of giving through their roles as trustees.

For more information on how to include Bridge Communities in your estate plan, please contact Amy Van Polen at (630) 545-0610.