From the moment Robert Robson met Susanna Castillo, he was smitten. Their Stanford University dorm had gone co-ed in 1971. Robert was a chemistry major; Susie studied history and psychology and loved to talk about Russian history. “I thought, ‘Wow! This is a very knowledgeable, well-spoken person. I want to get to know her,’” says Robert. Susie was a student with disabilities resulting from childhood polio. When Stanford administrators made a special effort to help her get around campus more easily—by installing an outdoor electrical outlet at the dorm so she could charge her cart there—she was touched. It was a consideration that influenced her choice of a career in higher education.

Susie and Robert married in 1974. With advanced degrees in chemistry, Robert took a job at Chevron Corp. and stayed for 30 years as a research
focused our desire for giving—we became close friends with others in a support group, Susie and Robert.

Susie’s career as a higher education administrator took off at several prestigious institutions—UC-San Diego, Harvard University, and Stanford University. Known for being a relationship builder whom others wanted to work with, she became registrar, interim dean of students, and finally associate vice chancellor of student affairs and services at UC-Berkeley.

“Susie was passionately engaged in disability student services,” says Robert. “She contracted polio when she was 8 months old and never really walked like you and I walk. She developed Type 1 diabetes at the age of 10.” In 2010, Susie was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. She was 58. For the next four years, she endured frequent treatments, undergoing numerous chemotherapy regimens including a stem cell transplant at Stanford and experimental clinical trials. “Just as she dealt with polio and Type 1 diabetes, Susie dealt with multiple myeloma with courage and optimism,” says Robert. Through a Stanford-facilitated support group, Susie and Robert became close friends with others facing the same disease. “This horrible, dreaded disease focused our desire for giving—we wanted to give to basic cancer research,” Robert says. “More effort and more funds were needed to understand stem cell biology and chemistry. We wanted to support fundamental science and help the next generation, so we decided to include a provision for Stanford University School of Medicine in our estate plans. “Susie passed away in September 2014. She had the benefit of having excellent medical care at Stanford.”

“Never doubt the money will go to a good use.” — Robert Robson

Plan a Gift Today, Save Lives Tomorrow

Putting Love Into Action

“If you have a friend or family member whose life has been touched by Stanford Medicine, consider making your gift in his or her name. This can be a meaningful way to honor someone you care about as you help to improve the future of health care.

“The person who regrets having been truly generous or thoughtful. Yet, it can be difficult to give away property, securities, or real estate now if you do not know whether you or your family will need those assets later. One solution is to make gifts to Stanford Medicine by means of a gift in your will or trust.

Below are some advantages of making a gift in your will or trust:

• Relatively Simple. This gift can be made by incorporating a provision in your will or trust.

• Revocable. Until your will or trust goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans.

• Versatile. You can give a specific item, an amount of money, a gift contingent upon certain events, or a percentage of your estate.

• Tax-wise. Your estate is entitled to an unlimited charitable estate tax deduction for gifts to Stanford Medicine. This is particularly important for those who have an estate subject to estate tax.

Why Leaving a Percentage Makes Sense

When planning a future gift, it’s sometimes difficult to determine the total amount to give. Emergencies happen, and you need to make sure your family is financially taken care of first. Including a gift of a percentage of your estate ensures that your donation will remain proportionate to your estate size, no matter how it fluctuates over the years.

STEP ONE: Choose how you would like to make an impact. Determine the purpose you would like to support in medicine at Stanford. Give us a call at 650.723.6560 to learn more about the ways Stanford is supporting the interest most important to you.

STEP TWO: Discuss with an estate planning attorney your wishes for a charitable gift, including whether you wish to designate a specific amount or percentage of your estate. Contact us at 650.723.6560 or return the enclosed remit response card to get sample language to share with your attorney.

STEP THREE: Notify us of your intention. Informing Stanford’s planned giving team of your gift allows us to thank you and ensure that your gift will be fulfilled in a manner you intend. We are happy to adhere to your wishes regarding anonymity.

GIVE A LASTING TRIBUTE

Making a Difference Through a Planned Gift

To speak directly with a member of our staff and learn more about various planned giving options, please contact: Carol Kersten, Erin Phillips, or Blake Grossman, Medical Center Development Office of Planned Giving, pgmed@stanford.edu • 650.723.6560

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