

Financial planning  
ideas for

# Our Family our future

## Facing Life's Challenges

**E**very young person who leaves foster care must overcome challenges to become an independent adult. At 19, Austin has had more than his fair share.

In the stretch of just a few months, he has moved out of his foster home, found a job and undergone open heart surgery.

Fortunately, Austin didn't go through those major life events alone. He was referred to the YVLifeSet program and specialist Destiny Dehart. In the YVLifeSet model, young people identify their own goals, and specialists help them learn the skills needed to stay on track to achieve them. It is an intensive, experiential skills-building approach.

"After I graduated from high school, I wanted to move out and make it on my own," Austin said. "My first goal was to get my own apartment. Destiny helped with all the details."

Destiny helped Austin with the job application and interview process and he secured a job he likes at Walmart. With stable housing and employment, Austin began to tackle health issues.

In elementary school, Austin learned he was born with a hole in his heart and a leaky valve. Doctors told him he would have to have the valve replaced around 19 or 20 years old. Just as he was going out on his own, it was time have the surgery.

With surgery behind him, Austin is working with Destiny and YVLifeSet on new goals.

He wants to build his savings account so he can afford his own place. He would like to work in carpentry and construction, a career path that will give him higher wages. A stint in Job Corps gave him some skills, and he and Destiny are identifying training programs and vocational-technical education options that are more targeted to the work he wants to do.

"YVLifeSet is helping me learn what I need to know now," he said. "It's straightforward and works for me. I like to get things done."



Austin and Destiny

## INSIDE:

- Make the Most of Your Gifts
- Did Congress Change Your Estate Plans?



Hailey

## Meet Hailey, a Tennessee YVLifeSet youth on the LifeSet Network

Hailey is currently a sophomore in nursing school in Middle Tennessee and studying to become a Nurse Anesthetist. She also just got her first apartment!

Hailey aged out of foster care and is now in the YVLifeSet program. She says, “College is hard and it’s even harder alone.” Hailey needs a new bike to help get to and from classes. She also needs a printer to be able to print assignments.

Because of the LifeSet Network, supporters like you can help her get the items she needs in school to be successful. The LifeSet Network is connecting former foster youth to a network of supporters from around the country. Youth can receive vital help from the Network’s diverse pool of supporters to navigate the tough transition into independent adulthood.

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.lifasetnetwork.org>

## Make the Most of Your Gifts

The fall is traditionally the time when many of us think about making gifts to support Youth Villages and other favorite charitable interests. In light of major tax law changes that took effect this year, you may want to pay extra attention this year to both your personal financial and charitable giving plans because the majority of people have been affected in one or more ways by these changes. There are a number of smart ways to stretch your charitable giving dollars whether you itemize or take advantage of the new, higher standard deduction.

There are still benefits to giving assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. When you give securities or other property that has increased in value, you can often make the gift at a lower after-tax cost than a gift of cash. Using securities that you have owned for a year or more to make your year-end gifts can be a wise choice.

When you give this way your itemized tax deduction is based on the current value of the stock, not just the amount you paid for it. As an added benefit, no capital gains tax will be owed on the increased value. (This is also true if you use the standard deduction.)

Let’s suppose you are considering a gift of \$15,000 using either cash or appreciated stock. Which is the better choice? You originally purchased the stock for \$5,000 and it is now worth \$15,000. If you sell the stock, you will owe capital gains tax on the \$10,000 increase in the stock’s value.

However, by using the securities to make your gift, you will pay no capital gains tax and you will enjoy a tax deduction based on the full value of the stock when you itemize your deductions. Making a gift in this way enables you to use your cash in other ways—for example, repurchasing the donated stock at a higher cost basis if you prefer to retain the stock in your portfolio. For a single taxpayer, the charitable gift will allow them to itemize not only the contribution, but other state and local taxes up to \$10,000.

Giving appreciated securities also allows you to conserve your cash because it doesn’t require you to withdraw any funds from your bank account. Please contact us or your financial advisors to find out the best way to make a gift of securities.

# Q&A About Giving at Year-End

## **Q. Are there special advantages to making a gift to Youth Villages before the end of the year?**

**A.** Yes, in many cases there are. You may want to take a special look at the timing of your gifts to maximize your tax savings. Only gifts completed by December 31 will be available to help reduce your 2018 tax bill. Your tax rate determines how much you will save: the higher your rate, the more you save from each dollar donated. If your state also taxes your income, your savings may be even greater. Some will benefit by timing gifts and other deductions so they can become an itemizer.

## **Q. What are the advantages of making my year-end gifts with cash?**

**A.** Gifts of cash are popular and convenient to make because you can give by mail or online. When making your gifts, remember to save your receipts and

acknowledgments. Those that itemize deductions for tax purposes can eliminate tax on up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. While relatively few people reach this limit, the tax code allows donors to “carry forward” excess gift amounts for up to five more years. Your charitable gifts may even help you itemize more of your other deductions such as mortgage interest and up to \$10,000 of state and local taxes.

## **Q. Why should I arrange my gifts as early as possible?**

**A.** Some people will be surprised by their 2018 tax bill. Gifts this year may offset any increase in taxes or further reduce taxes owed. In order to enjoy tax benefits for charitable gifts this year, they must be completed no later than December 31. It’s best to begin discussing your plans with advisors early to ensure enough time to complete transfers and avoid hasty last-minute decisions.



Sasha, 15, and her younger siblings had been in a shelter for three months when counselors from Youth Villages working with DHS met them. “The children were all on the autism spectrum and mostly nonverbal,” said Calvin Fidler, a specialist with the Youth Villages YVIntercept program. “We felt that clinically, these children could move back home safely.” Calvin met with the family three times each week for therapy and was available 24/7 to come to the home if needed. “We worked on managing the parents’ chronic stress that comes from caring for children with serious disabilities, understanding their diagnoses and how to work with them in and out of the home. The parents continue to be successful, providing the children with stability, safety and security.”

## **IRA Giving**

If you are age 70½ or older, there is a special provision that allows you to make charitable gifts, called Qualified Charitable Distributions, directly from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) using funds that might otherwise be taxed when withdrawn (up to a total of \$100,000 per individual per year; \$200,000 per couple with separate IRAs). You can even count these gifts toward any amount you are required to withdraw each year. This way of giving is extremely tax efficient.

If you are interested in making a gift from your IRA, ask your IRA custodian for a form to arrange for a Qualified Charitable Distribution or contact Steve Benskin at (901) 251-4820.

# Memorials

Memorial gifts to Youth Villages are a thoughtful and meaningful remembrance of those who supported our work. The following memorial gifts were received this year:

**Mr. Dorcas Tomi Akinwale**  
Mr. Adekunle Joseph

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*continued on next page*

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# Did Congress Change Your Estate Plans?

**A**fter the tax law changes this year, are you wondering about the impact on plans you already have in place? In this environment, it can be challenging to know if your plans are still current as well as the best course of action to take when making future financial plans.

Fortunately, one thing IS certain: In terms of the actual documents, Congress cannot change your will, trust or other plans and estate tax law changes may mean that more of your hard-earned assets will be available for your loved ones and favorite charities, like Youth Villages.

- **Contact your professional advisors** for a review of your existing estate plan. They can advise you on any changes you need to make to address your planning goals and any tax implications.

- **Review beneficiary designations** on life insurance policies, retirement accounts, bank accounts and investment accounts. Make sure they are current and are coordinated with your overall estate and financial plans.
- **Think about your charitable intentions** and make sure they are addressed in your plans.
- **Be smart about your charitable giving.** For instance, if you have seen an increase in the value of securities you own, consider using them—instead of cash—to fund your charitable gifts. This will often bring added savings at tax time. Did you recently turn 70½? If so, you can use your IRA to make tax-free charitable gifts. (See Page 3 for more information.)

## Bequest Language

**I**f you are considering a bequest to Youth Villages, here is some suggested wording to take to your attorney:

“After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_% of the remainder [or \$\_\_\_] of my estate to Youth Villages, a charitable corporation [Tax ID #58-1716970] currently having offices at 3320 Brother Blvd., Memphis, Tennessee.”

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. © Copyright 2018 by SHARPE newkirk. All Rights Reserved. NYEX-18



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**For planned giving information,  
please contact:**

Stephen Benskin • Manager of Planned Giving  
3320 Brother Blvd. • Memphis, TN 38133  
Phone: (901) 251-4820 • Fax: (901) 251-5004  
stephen.benskin@youthvillages.org  
www.youthvillages.org/plannedgiving



Youth Villages is a holder of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal.



Youth Villages is a Platinum-Level Guidestar Exchange participant, demonstrating its commitment to transparency.