

Financial planning
ideas for

Our Family our future

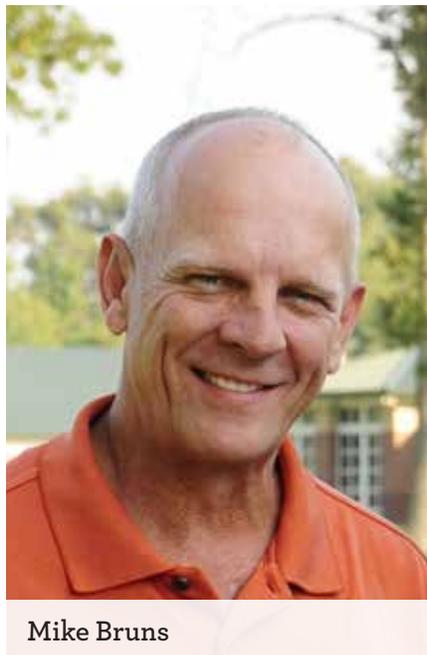
Thirty Years of Commitment to Youth Villages

Mike Bruns has been a passionate donor and volunteer of Youth Villages for close to three decades and enjoys seeing first-hand the success of the children and families. His motto, “If I can make someone happy every day, then every day is a pretty good day,” guides him, and it is evident in his commitment to the children and families at Youth Villages.

Mike grew up in the South Side of Chicago. Raised by his mother and stepfather, he learned early on that he would have to create his own success. Until he met Marian, his wife of almost 50 years, he didn’t think he would have a true partner to help him along the way.

As a young couple with two small children, Mike and Marian had financial struggles like many do, but with her help and support, Mike started a business that eventually became very successful. Thankful for that success, Mike realized it was time for him to give back and find ways to help others succeed as well. Youth Villages was one of the first charities to benefit from his generosity.

Mike has been supporting Youth Villages as a donor, a volunteer, and as a member and chair of the national board of directors for multiple terms. When asked why he has such passion for the organization, he explained, “I have always felt that charities are made of two parts—heart and head. I believe Youth



Mike Bruns

Villages has both. The children and families tug at the heartstrings, and with the proper help, they are given the opportunity to thrive and succeed. What makes Youth Villages unique is that they also have the head. They are a well-run business, and as a businessman, I appreciate that the money I donate is being used as efficiently as possible. It feels more like an investment in the future than just a donation.”

Mike and Marian included Youth Villages in their estate plans a long time ago. He isn’t worried whether his money will be spent wisely because he knows the organization will ensure their gift will work hard

for the children and families it serves. But Mike was especially glad all those arrangements had been made when he had COVID-19 last year. “While I was battling the virus and worried about my family, I didn’t have to worry that my wishes would be carried out because my plans were finalized. My mind was at ease.”

COVID-19 has brought many unexpected changes to our lives, but one thing that has not changed is the need to plan for the future. Being prepared is the best way to make sure your intentions are honored. The time to get your affairs in order and notify a charity if they are included in your estate plans is today—you never know what tomorrow holds.

INSIDE:

- Are Your Estate Plans Obsolete?
- Take an Asset Inventory

Your Estate Plans May be Obsolete If...

Your property changes. The sale, purchase or inheritance of various assets can considerably alter the makeup of your estate and affect your plans. You may find that your current plans no longer match the properties you own. Changes in asset values can also determine whether taxes will be due on your estate.

Your marital status changes. Marriage, the loss of a spouse and other changes can impact your current and future financial plans. Your will and other plans should reflect these changes.

A child or grandchild is born. An addition to the family may also have an impact on the terms of your will. Revisions can be simple and should be made with the assistance of a qualified attorney.

Laws affecting your estate change. As laws governing estates change, the advice of a professional advisor should be sought to minimize taxes and other expenses and delays that can be associated with settling an estate.

Your state of residence changes. If you have moved to another state since you last reviewed your plans, you should evaluate if changes are needed in light of laws in your current state of residence.

Needs change. Over time, some loved ones may become more independent, while the needs of others may increase. Your will should reflect such changes. After providing for the needs of loved ones, you may also wish to update the charitable gifts included in your will and other plans.

Whenever any changes mentioned above occur, it can be a good time for a review. Even in the absence of major life events, however, a quick evaluation every few years can help prevent your will and other estate planning vehicles from becoming obsolete. The asset inventory list on Page 3 may be helpful as you consider your provisions for your loved ones.



Staff Goes Above and Beyond

Amber, a clinical supervisor for Youth Villages, came to the aid of one of her families as well as many others in need. The family had a potential case of COVID-19, and the mother could no longer work.

Amber contemplated how she could assist the family and thought of the additional families that would need help as well. Amber's former employer, a local restaurant, started selling "survival kits" filled with essentials, including groceries and cleaning products as a way to help pay employees while the restaurant was closed. Amber decided to join forces with the restaurant.

She told friends and family about the survival kits. Before she knew it, someone donated 10 bags to her, and the restaurant started to receive inquiries about how to further support Youth Villages. Amber was able to call her Youth Villages families with the good news, "Your food is outside!" A weight was lifted off the families' shoulders when they received the survival kit, she said.

"I'm thankful for having resources—the reality is everyone doesn't have options," Amber said. She was able to secure more than 40 bags to help the families she serves. "Many people are looking for ways to give and support others during this national health crisis," said Natalie, community development manager with Youth Villages OKC. "Amber found a way for external and non-clinical people to be involved in our work and feel good about their contribution."

Take an Asset Inventory

Do you know all the assets you own? It can be easy to overlook some property that should be included in your estate plans. As you make a list of your assets, be sure to consider all the following categories:

- Savings you have accumulated (such as bank accounts or CDs).
- Real estate (your personal residence, vacation home or rental property).
- Investments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.).
- Insurance policies.
- Retirement funds (pension plans, IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.).
- Personal property (cars, furniture, jewelry, etc.).
- Digital assets.

Once you determine exactly what you own, then you can move to the next list. Who do you care about? Your second list should include those you want to provide for in the future. Don't worry right now about who will get what. Just get down on paper those you want to provide for, such as:

- Your spouse.
- Children and grandchildren.
- Other family members (siblings, nieces and nephews or parents).
- A beloved pet.
- Special friends and loved ones.
- Charities that hold a special place in your heart, like Youth Villages.

With these two important lists completed, you will know what you own and who you want included in your plans. Then you can be assured that when you meet with your attorney your plans will reflect your wishes.

For more information about ways to include Youth Villages in your plans, return the enclosed card, visit www.youthvillages.org/plannedgiving or contact us at (901) 251-4899.

Finding a Forever Family for Jesse



Jesse

The long-awaited day of joining a loving, forever family finally arrived for Jesse on March 2, 2021. The process began almost seven years earlier when he and his siblings were placed in state custody due to parental drug abuse and homelessness.

The termination of parental rights was granted in 2016; his siblings were adopted in 2017, but for Jesse, finding his forever home took longer. Jesse's adoption journey was lengthy—including time at a psychiatric hospital, four different foster homes and multiple stays on Youth Villages' campuses—but Jesse never gave up hope of being adopted, and neither did the staff at Youth Villages.

Ray and Linzie found Jesse through an adoption recruitment video on the Youth Villages Facebook page. The couple, who had no children, attended a DCS foster parenting class and called a Youth Villages adoption specialist to learn more about Jesse.

Following the pre-adoptive process, Jesse was placed in their home in August 2020, and things were going great. There were a few scheduling delays, but Jesse remained hopeful as his journey was finally coming to an end.

On the morning of March 2, Ray and Linzie brought Jesse outside. What he discovered was his long-time dream. "I'm getting adopted!" he yelled, after seeing the sign they had placed in the yard.

The virtual adoption process went smoothly, and they enjoyed a trip to St. Louis to celebrate. It was an incredible team effort for this special child, and thank you to all of our donors and partners for being part of that team.

Accomplishing Her Goals

Annually, 20,000 youth age out of foster care, left with limited resources to transition into successful adulthood. LifeSet, an evidence-informed program model developed by Youth Villages, is the bridge from foster care to successful adulthood for thousands of youth across the country.

Amani, 19, spent over three years in the foster care system due to instability in her home. She was placed in the care of relatives—a kinship foster placement, often best for children. However, Amani recalls this time in her life as a sad one: “It’s nothing like being with your own parents,” she said.

Through LifeSet, she has accomplished many of her goals, specifically with her education. While maintaining her grades as a sports management major, she also works and makes time for her seven siblings. Amani had an active role in raising them, and now that she has moved, she tries her best to stay involved and help them. “I just want them to know that I still care about them and that I’m always here,” she said.

LifeSet has helped Amani learn important life skills. “In the beginning, I struggled with balancing school, paying bills and knowing what paperwork I needed,” she said. “But luckily, I had people like my LifeSet specialist to walk me through everything.”

Eureka Duckett, Amani’s specialist, has seen constant progress. “She thrives on being a better Amani,” Duckett said. “I admire her for that.” Even in her struggles to balance life, Duckett has seen Amani push through so she could continue to learn and work toward the primary focus: her education.



Amani with Eureka Duckett

Bequest Language

If 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.”

Youth VILLAGES®

The force for families



For planned giving information, please contact:

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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.