At 89 years old, Don Jordan has experienced many joys and sorrows in his lifetime. The joy of having a loving family, a strong faith and financial success. The sorrow of battling a serious illness for the last few years and seeing the ongoing racial divide in the community he lives in.

“Everyone goes through trials at some point in their lives, even those who seem most fortunate,” shared Jordan. “I believe we are put on this earth to give each other a hand.”

Jordan remembers a time when others gave him a hand that ultimately changed the course of his life. “While I was a college student, I received an acceptance letter from Harvard Business School. What was so strange was that I hadn’t even applied!”

As it turned out, one of Jordan’s college professors—recognizing his potential—applied on his behalf. But even with an acceptance letter in hand, Jordan couldn’t go to Harvard because he couldn’t afford the tuition. Once again, his teacher was persistent, she helped him secure scholarships so that he could attend. He never forgot these acts of generosity.

Over the years, Jordan enjoyed financial success, which allowed him to fulfill his passion for helping others. “I find joy in giving and I want to teach others how to find that joy,” he said. “It is easy to make money if you work hard and focus. It’s not as easy to find the right way to give back.”

Jordan passes on his joy of giving by hosting an annual luncheon for a group of Memphis professionals to encourage them to become more involved in their communities and in the charities they support, whether locally or globally.

Jordan began supporting Youth Villages because of the work being done for children locally. “After becoming more involved, I was excited to learn Youth Villages is serving kids across the country, not just in the Memphis community. It’s so easy for kids to fall through the cracks if they don’t have help and support.”

“When I visited the Bartlett campus (one of Youth Villages’ Memphis locations), I was struck by the beauty of the surroundings and the brightness of the buildings. It’s a happy place for young people who are going through some unimaginable things.”

“Seeing the work Youth Villages is doing in Memphis, and around the country, makes it an organization I want to support,” Jordan continued. “Youth Villages is helping kids live fuller lives, which is something many of us take for granted.”

INSIDE:

• Smart Ways to Give in 2018 • Providing Future Support to Youth Villages
Smart Ways to Give in 2018

Recent changes in tax law have left many people wondering, “What are some of the most effective ways to make my charitable gifts in 2018 and the future?”

The answers to these questions will depend on your individual circumstances, so it is always wise to discuss your charitable plans with your accountant or other advisors. Generally speaking, there are a number of tax-wise ways to give under the new law.

For example, if you are age 70½ or older, you can make tax-free gifts directly to Youth Villages from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This is a tax-effective way to make charitable gifts—in any amount totaling up to $100,000 per person per year—whether or not you deduct your gifts on your tax return. You can even count these gifts toward any amount you are required to withdraw each year.

Making gifts of stocks or mutual funds that have increased in value may be particularly attractive this year. When you give in this way your tax deduction is based on the current value of the shares, not just the amount you paid for them. As an added benefit, no capital gains tax will be owed on the increased value. This also allows you to conserve your cash for other uses.

If you have a donor advised fund (DAF), you may want to use it to direct gifts to Youth Villages to support your area of interest—perhaps now more than ever. As a result of the new law and the expanded standard deduction, it may be wise to increase the amount of your contribution to your DAF in some years to ensure you will enjoy the benefits from itemizing your mortgage interest, state taxes and other deductible expenses.

Learn more

We are happy to discuss these ideas with you further, confidentially and with no obligation. Visit www.youthvillages.org/plannedgiving or contact Steve Benskin at (901) 251-4820.

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.”
Bringing Ayden Home

Ayden, 8, was adopted into a loving family, but still struggled. His adoptive parents worried about the safety of their other children and feared the worst: giving Ayden back to the state. Luckily, Youth Villages was there to help.

Ayden was born to a drug addicted mother and spent his first two years in an unstable, neglectful environment. Children with this type of trauma often develop emotional and behavioral problems that can make childhood difficult and carry through to adulthood.

Through group and individual counseling on a residential campus, Youth Villages is teaching Ayden appropriate ways of interacting with others. He’s starting to deal with everyday frustrations without lashing out in anger. In addition, counselors are working with his parents in family sessions, with the goal of bringing him back home.

This year, Ayden was one of the thousands of children helped by Youth Villages’ Holiday Heroes program. On a recent field trip to see Santa, he asked for a fidget spinner and Nike gear.

His parents, on the other hand, had something else at the top of their list: bringing Ayden home.
Standing Up for Brittany

At 15, Brittany’s life took a dramatic turn. Because of her mother’s struggles, Brittany was placed in foster care. She ran away from her foster home several times, quit going to school and began using drugs and alcohol.

As part of a pilot program to reduce the number of children in foster care, a Youth Villages Intercept® family intervention specialist came to see her. “I wasn’t sure about Youth Villages at first because I thought it was just another person coming into my life to tell me what to do, but then I got to know my specialist,” Brittany said.

“At court, she spoke on my behalf. She got involved with my case worker and helped with my foster mom. I knew she always had my back and would stand up for me.”

The Youth Villages specialist worked with Lisa, Brittany’s biological mother to help Lisa find stable employment, permanent housing and helped her complete parenting classes. After a few trial visits, Brittany came home and the focus shifted to helping mother and daughter improve communication and rebuild their relationship.

“Five months later, Lisa is still employed and has learned how to provide Brittany with the supervision and support she needs to be successful,” said her specialist. Their relationship is better than ever.

Brittany’s goal is to graduate from high school and attend college next year.

“I am thankful for Youth Villages because it helped me get Brittany back home,” Lisa said. “I want her to go to college. She is smart and headstrong, and I know she will be a success.”