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the **INSPIRED** *Philanthropist*

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MOVING LIVES FORWARD

'It's a gift that keeps on giving.'

Bob and Susan Goyette explain why they joined the St. Louise de Marillac Legacy Society



Thirty years ago, career Army officer Bob Goyette and his wife, Susan, moved to Haiti where Bob was assigned as U.S. defense attaché. There began their quest to learn how they could best help the poor that eventually led them to Catholic Charities New Hampshire.

"We realized we were among the poorest of the poor and you could never do enough. The rich got richer. The poor got very poor," Bob says of his 1987-1989 tour in Haiti. "We felt torn because we realized how much corruption there was. When you tried to do something, you could never be certain if it was going to the right people or not."

The Goyettes returned to the United States in 1989 and moved to Nashua. They joined the Parish of the Resurrection where they learned of Catholic Charities from a representative who spoke during the annual Parish Appeal. The more the Goyettes heard, the more certain they were that Catholic Charities' programs aligned with their values.

"We're confident that our assistance will help local people. You don't have to go to Haiti to find people in need," Bob says. "Whether it is their immigration services, or the St. Charles Children's Home, or the nursing homes, they are all worthwhile."

"We have full faith and confidence in Catholic Charities," adds Bob, who retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1996 and now works part-time at Bishop Guertin High School as a teacher mentor. Susan retired as an Army spouse and later retired from St. Joseph Hospital where she worked for nine years as a medical transcriptionist. The couple have two grown daughters and four granddaughters.

Last year, the Goyettes became legacy society members when they set up a charitable gift annuity so their support of Catholic Charities would have a lasting impact. This method of planned giving is unique in that it supports a charity they hold dear while providing them with an income stream during their lifetimes.

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"You don't have to be a millionaire. With a lump sum gift, we get a recurring income ... More important, the lump of it goes to Catholic Charities to use however they want. It's a legacy. It's a gift that keeps on giving," Bob explains.

"It's almost like a savings account," Susan adds. "We get some of the interest, but the money stays with Catholic Charities."

For the Goyettes, you don't have to be wealthy to be a legacy donor. Rather, it's a matter of counting blessings, realizing when "how much is enough," and knowing their gifts will continue to support the causes that matter most to them.

"I'm proud as a Catholic that we have a substantial charity like Catholic Charities ... It does a lot," Susan says of the breadth of services it provides neighbors in need.

"I don't think even some Catholics are aware of how much Catholic Charities does. Catholic Charities leads the way," Bob adds.

St. Louise de Marillac Legacy Society

The St. Louise de Marillac Legacy Society, named after the Patroness of Social Workers, recognizes donors, like you, who leave a portion of your assets to Catholic Charities NH through estate or financial plans. To learn more, contact Karen Moynihan at 603-669-3030.