

James G. Fitzgerald
227 Otis Road, Barrington Hills, Illinois 60010

October 13, 2010

Mr. and Mrs. Norval Stephens
3400 Garlands Lane
Barrington, IL 60010

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stephens:

It is my turn to write to the Barrington Community on behalf of the Barrington Area Community Foundation. And I couldn't be more pleased to do so.

My ties to the Barrington Community go back many decades. My involvement with the Foundation dates to the year it was formed in 1998. Back then I was quite honored when asked to serve on the Board of Directors of a new non-profit organization dedicated to funding a permanent long-term fund for the betterment of our community.

After serving on the Board for twelve years and counting, I still feel honored and find it easy to sing its praises. From the start, we solicited donations by promising not to use the funds we raised directly, but to create a growing sum of money whose investment returns were available to help local charitable organizations serve the unmet needs of the greater Barrington area. To succeed, we would have to convince potential donors that our board would act as good stewards of their gifts, both in preserving the principal and in making sure we give away the money wisely.

We like to think we have done a pretty good job. Starting with nothing and then building slowly but surely year after year, we now have over \$2.7 million of net assets. Our formula for granting money is meant to ensure that we can give as much as we can annually without impairing our ability to fund at higher and higher levels in the future. Despite the ups and downs in the economy and financial markets, we have never had to decrease our level of support. In 2010, our basic grant level has been set at \$115,000, part of the \$660,000 we have given since our start.

We have no hired staff. With the exception of an annual outside certified audit and some secretarial services, all our work is done by very seasoned and committed members of the Board of Directors. That is why we have been able to keep our expenses to well under 1% of net assets. Grant requests are thoroughly vetted to begin with--and actual grants are thoroughly reviewed afterward. In the meantime our investment committee, which includes several investment professionals, meets regularly. We work hard to make sure the money you have entrusted us with is invested wisely and used properly to better the community.

But it is people like you who have made this all possible and who will continue to make it so. For those of us who share a deep affection for the Barrington area and want to give back, the Foundation is a great vehicle for one's charitable dollars. Please consider helping us. If you have any questions about our organization, please do not hesitate to call me directly at (847) 991-9250 or speak to any of our board members.

Sincerely,

