A Family Shares the Value of Legacy Giving

Upon arriving in Orange County from Los Angeles in 1979, Aviva and Fred Forster immediately became engaged within the local community. Active involvement with a number of Jewish organizations throughout Orange County has “enriched our lives in many ways,” says Fred. “Our closest friends are those we’ve met through our involvements, and some of our most rewarding experiences have been the times we’ve spent working for charities that make a real difference in peoples’ lives.”

Wishing to ensure a lasting future for the organizations closest to their hearts, Aviva and Fred worked directly with the Foundation to create a legacy plan that fulfilled their philanthropic vision. Establishing their customized plan was a simple and meaningful process. Filing a simple form through their retirement plan administrator and creating a personal plan with the Foundation’s Director, the Forsters created after lifetime gifts through their IRA to benefit four of the Foundation’s Jewish Legacy partners: Heritage Pointe, the Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish Federation & Family Services and Temple Bat Yahm.

Aviva and Fred’s philanthropic philosophy is an extension of their values. Fred shares, “those we most admire and respect are those who give of their talents and resources to make our world a better place.” Through their time, effort and resources, Aviva and Fred make the world a better place today, and their legacy gift will help to ensure a vibrant future for our local Jewish community long into the future.

Aviva and Fred experienced a beautiful added benefit of creating their personal legacy when they witnessed the story of their giving being shared and passed down to multiple generations within their own family. On a recent Friday night, the Forster’s children proudly shared with their own young children at the Shabbat table that Grandma and Grandpa give to worthy charities. Acting as role models for tzedakah and knowing that their children and grandchildren value giving back to our community is a powerful legacy in itself.

What will your legacy be?
A Grandson’s Love Results in a Legacy Gift for Heritage Pointe.

Sharing the vision of providing a place where seniors, their families and volunteers can learn, grow, live well and flourish, Aviva and Fred Forster created a legacy gift to Heritage Pointe. The Forsters have enjoyed the opportunity to watch Heritage Pointe flourish from its inception. Aviva states, “for more than a quarter century we have proudly participated as our community came together to support our seniors, and to assure they have a safe and caring home.” A quality residential home for seniors, incorporating Jewish values and traditions, has been an integral part of Orange County, thanks to the Forsters and many other dedicated members of our community.

Aviva and Fred’s passion for the creation of a quality Jewish community home for seniors providing exemplary care was sparked when Fred visited his grandmother in Cleveland and witnessed her experience living in an impressive Jewish home for the aging. His grandmother and other residents were engaged, joyous and celebrating their heritage while enjoying a sense of community and friendship.

Heritage Pointe was just starting up in Orange County, and Fred and Aviva became involved in every step, with Fred eventually taking on the role of President.

Heritage Pointe is a non-profit, senior resident community providing independent, assisted and memory care services while incorporating Jewish traditions and lifestyles. This beautiful residence community offers cultural, social, educational and recreational activities for residents, including an on-site synagogue, traditional Jewish programming and comprehensive healthcare services. The philosophy of putting the residents’ needs first ensures the staff and volunteers do everything possible to provide optimal care and respect to each and every individual calling Heritage Pointe home.

While their own parents have never lived at Heritage Pointe, the Forsters love knowing that other seniors can benefit from this outstanding Jewish residential home. Creating a legacy plan with the Foundation’s Create a Jewish Legacy program has been both inspiring and meaningful to the Forsters. As stated by Fred, “we are thrilled to have the opportunity to leave a legacy gift, helping to ensure that Heritage Pointe will continue to meet the needs of Jewish seniors in our community long into the future.”

Whether your passion is quality senior care, Jewish preschool education, a favorite synagogue, assisting those with special needs, fighting poverty or creating positive Jewish experiences for teens, you can make your dream for the future become reality. Contact the Foundation today to learn more about creating your own Jewish legacy.

Wendy Arenson
Director of Legacy Planning
wendy@jcfoc.org

The Foundation’s Create a Jewish Legacy program, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is a community-wide campaign aimed at helping individuals and families build endowments to support the local Jewish institutions they care about most.