

There are many ways to give

Life insurance policies provide a substantial gift

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

Many Americans want to give back to their community through charitable giving, but some do not know how many options are available when it comes to philanthropy.

One of those options is charitable giving with life insurance, something Amy Buesing learned first hand.

"I have always believed in giving back to the community," said Buesing, a former Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) board member. "I would donate

a small portion of my check through payroll deductions to a charitable cause as an employee at Memorial Medical Center. Having that money taken from my check was a wonderful way to contribute."

When someone came to the hospital to talk about ways to make a greater impact, including through life insurance policies, Buesing said she started taking notes.

"I put pen to paper and figured out I could have an even greater impact by contributing to a life insurance policy," she said. "What appealed to me the most was the opportunity to leave a significant gift. A gift much bigger than

I would have been able to leave otherwise."

Life insurance policies can be a valuable vehicle for contributions because the outcome is substantial. For Buesing, she simply raised what she was already donating by a little to put toward a life insurance policy that named the CFSNM as the beneficiary. Each year, for eight years, she made a charitable contribution to the CFSNM and the CFSNM paid the premium. CFSNM is the sole owner and beneficiary of the policy and Buesing received a tax deduction for her gift.

Buesing said she believes making planned or deferred gifts is a win-win situation for everyone in the community, and she selected the CFSNM as the beneficiary because she supports its mission – connecting donors who care with causes that matter.

"This is an important way to give back to the community with a long-lasting gift," she said. "I don't believe many people in the community

understand this option is out there, and it is such an easy way to contribute philanthropically."

The CFSNM is available to meet with donors on a one-on-one basis to describe the philanthropic choices available to them.

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout our area. Through the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of southern New Mexico for generations to come. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information see our website at www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn at 521-4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 S. Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

