

## A Letter From Our Chairman

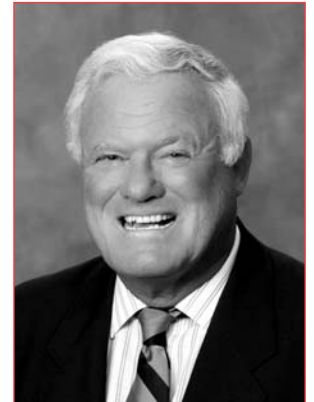
I guess it's mankind's fate never to rely on the old adage "what goes up must come down" and vice versa. Few would argue that the housing mess and stock market conditions today are 10 times worse than the crisis in 2001.

All this turmoil forces each of us to re-evaluate almost every aspect of our lives. And when we do, it just reconfirms what we've always known: No matter how rich or poor we think we are, we're all concerned about the future, wanting to make sure our long-term needs and those of our families are met. Beyond that, most of us also want to give something back, to invest in something that gives hope to future generations of children. That's where our charitable legacy comes into play.

Making a bequest in one's will to help current and future generations of children is still the easiest and most practical way to provide support. Specifying a bequest to the YMCA Foundation allows donors to make the ultimate gift without jeopardizing their financial well-being in these uncertain times.

All of this uncertainty causes most families to get back to the basics. In ours, we are most certainly taking fewer things for granted.

The reality is, even as we wait out this economic downturn, we shouldn't put our heads under the covers and



*Paul Bowman, Chairman  
YMCA Foundation Board of Trustees*

ignore our finances and estate plans. For many lucky souls there will be the revelation that there are enough financial resources to take care of them and their long-term health care needs, to see to the needs of their families, and to be able to fulfill their charitable legacies.

It's also a good time to sit down with your trusted financial planner to see if there are ways to strengthen your financial position that you may not have considered before.

Believe it or not, this may be a good time to work charitable giving into your overall financial plans. If a predictable flow of income with better than average interest rates is your objective, you might want to look at the benefits of a charitable remainder trust (CRT). These can be funded in a variety of ways,

*Continued on Page 4*



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*Continued from Page 1*

including gifts of personal property and real estate. CRTs have been around a long time. In addition to addressing your income issues, you'll be able to take a substantial tax deduction on what you put into the trust. If you can't use all the allowable deductions in the year you create the trust, you can spread the deductions out over five years.

Our president, Karin Gustafson, can provide you with actuarial materials and a personalized proposal you can share with your financial advisor at no obligation to you. Just give her a call at (941) 951-1336.

Yes, these are uncertain times, but they shouldn't keep us from fulfilling our potential. Carina and I are proud that we've created our charitable legacy via a charitable remainder unitrust and are comforted by the knowledge that in doing so, we are helping future generations of children and families in our community.

—Paul Bowman, Chairman,  
YMCA Foundation  
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*Your support is invaluable.*

Specifying a bequest to the YMCA Foundation allows you to make the ultimate gift without jeopardizing your financial well-being in these uncertain times.

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