Kathleen Pierce invests in endeavors that not only change lives, but empower and inspire recipients to, in turn, go out and make a difference in the world.

Since retiring from Kaiser Permanente, where she worked in health plan administration, Pierce has dedicated her life to many worthy causes. She volunteers twice a month at the Las Colinas Detention Facility. She talks with the women, prays with them and offers support, encouragement and a sense of hope.

Pierce is also a member of Dimensions, a San Diego women’s organization that provides scholarships to women who are returning to school after an interruption in their education. She also volunteers for the Assistance League of San Diego County. The nonprofit organization runs a local thrift shop that raises money to purchase school clothes and shoes for homeless or other needy students.

“The students come in busloads,” Pierce says. “They are so grateful and send us the nicest thank you notes.”

It’s not surprising then, that Pierce was drawn to the University of San Diego looking for ways to get involved and help students. She attends music recitals, holiday events such as Lessons and Carols and Bridges Academy and University of the Third Age, two USD programs that offer people 55 years and older the chance to attend workshops and seminars on a variety of topics, including the arts, current affairs, history, science, medicine and technology.

At one Bridges Academy event, Pierce recalls meeting a student who was studying in the School of Business Administration. “I was impressed because he said many of his classes zeroed in on the ethics of business,” she says. “He told me that in his work, he wanted to profess or express the values he learned here. That means those values would live on and make a difference to others.”

Pierce enjoys it all, but says the school that’s closest to her heart is the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. She watched the construction of the building, she attended many of its events and, recently, she funded a scholarship for students earning a Master of Arts in Peace and Justice Studies.

““There aren’t very many places in the world where you can earn a degree in peace studies,” Pierce says. “I wanted to contribute to something that doesn’t stop, that continues and allows students to go on doing good.”
It’s As Good As You’ve Heard

Most people are surprised by the benefits of charitable tax planning. This is likely due, at least in part, to the fact that charitable tax-planning strategies often make it possible to realize multiple objectives.

Careful planning actually makes it possible to enjoy personal (or family) benefits and realize philanthropic goals and dreams by taking advantage of incentives that encourage charitable planning. The USD charitable gift annuity is a perfect example.

An Annuity — and a Gift

Typically, these two concepts are viewed as virtually opposite actions. Annuity refers to the creation of an annual income stream, while a gift gives it away. But USD’s charitable gift annuity combines these two ideas. In practical terms, the gift annuity is a contract between the university and an individual or couple. The contract provides fixed payments to a donor for life and an ultimate gift to USD. Here is how the contract works:

Mr. Stafford creates a $50,000 gift annuity with the University of San Diego. The university provides annuity payments for as long as Mr. Stafford lives. Rates on one-life gift annuities range as high as 9.0 percent and are based on the age of the annuitant. For purposes of our illustration, let’s assume that Mr. Stafford is 76 years of age. The $50,000 gift annuity guarantees Mr. Stafford annual payments of 6.0% or $3,000.

The benefits don’t end with the attractive annuity rate. Since, upon his death, the gift annuity contract becomes a gift to the university, a number of charitable tax benefits accrue including an immediate charitable income tax deduction. When the gift annuity is funded with an appreciated asset, a portion of each annuity payment may be tax-free — further reducing tax liability.

To see just how a charitable gift annuity agreement might help you realize your objectives, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (619) 260-4523 or email jphillips@sandiego.edu. There is no obligation for this educational service, and we are happy to be able to offer it to friends of the University of San Diego.

What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?

We all want to leave a lasting and significant impression on those people who are most dear to us. Planning for the future and considering the legacy you will leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact on the world in which you live.

For many people considering their legacy, ensuring that their loved ones will be sufficiently cared for in the future is of paramount importance. Making a charitable bequest to the University of San Diego (USD) is one of the easiest ways to guarantee that your legacy endures.

What Is a Charitable Bequest?

A charitable bequest is a written statement in your will or trust directing a gift be made to USD as part of the disposition of your estate. A charitable bequest is one of the most flexible estate planning tools because it can be changed at any time and donors can remain in complete control of their property during their life.

What Type of Bequest Should You Consider?

Though making a charitable bequest is a flexible and easy way to ensure the impact of your legacy, there are some important things to consider before incorporating a charitable bequest into your estate plan. The property passing by bequest through your will is subject to probate. Also, the amount of your bequest and the type of bequest will depend on the value of your estate and the specific assets in your estate.

There are several types of charitable bequests. Depending on your needs and objectives, one type may be better suited for your estate plan than another.

- Gift of a specific dollar amount
- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset
- Gift of the residue of your estate (the assets that remain in your estate after other bequests, tax and administrative costs have been satisfied)

What kind of legacy will you leave? The Office of Planned Giving can help you determine the type of charitable bequest that suits your objectives. Call John Phillips today at (619) 260-4523 or send an email to jphillips@sandiego.edu.
In November, the Bridges Academy awarded scholarships to students **Athena Mitchell** and **Ernesto Reyes-Hernandez**.

**Athena Mitchell** is a USD junior and theatre arts major. She grew up on the island of American Samoa, a tiny island in the South Pacific. She moved to San Diego to attend Southwestern Community College. She worked hard and aimed high, knowing that she would eventually like to transfer to a prestigious university that would provide her with a well-rounded education.

For Athena, that university was USD. She recalls her first campus tour at USD where she immediately thought, “Wow, this is definitely where I belong!”

The day she received her acceptance letter was one of the greatest days of her life. It marked a new beginning in life; a time for change and personal growth. So far, Athena's experience at USD has been enriching in many aspects. She has taken advantage of USD’s stellar study abroad program and spent three weeks in London. Athena credits her study abroad experience with helping her grow as a person — challenging her to be independent and broaden her perspective of the world and different cultures. It also established her newly found love for high tea sessions.

Being able to perform and entertain has always been a passion of Athena’s. She is not shy about her goal of becoming an A-list actress and feels confident that the education and support she receives at USD is building a solid foundation for her future career goals. Athena concluded her address with an ever-appropriate line, “And I'd like to thank the Academy! Well, Bridges Academy that is!”

**Ernesto Reyes-Hernandez** is a sophomore at USD majoring in international relations and theology. Originally from Cuba, he moved to Las Vegas three years ago where he attended Palo Verde High School and graduated in 2010. Ernesto applied to Georgetown, George Washington University, American University and USD. But he decided on USD because of its international relations and theology programs and its strategic location near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Ernesto is passionate about foreign politics and says USD has given him many opportunities to explore these interests further and grow as an ethical and compassionate leader. Last spring, he interned for the Trans-Border Institute, which allowed him to meet prominent leaders such as former President of Mexico Vicente Fox and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Radhika Coomaraswamy. Ernesto is also involved with Associated Students, USD’s student government organization, and was elected as an academic senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences.

Once he graduates, Ernesto plans to join the Peace Corps. He is excited about the prospect of traveling and experiencing the world and living in community with peoples from different cultures. He also plans to continue his studies in international affairs in a postgraduate program and join the United States Foreign Service.

Ernesto credits the Bridges Endowed Scholarship for helping him achieve his goals. He told the audience, “I sincerely appreciate your kind contributions and continued support. And I thank you for your kind generosity.”

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**For more information about the many ways you can support the Bridges Endowed Scholarship Fund or other scholarship funds on campus, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (619) 260-4523.**

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