

# Right on the Money

BY EMILY HEDRICK, CFIDS ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, gifts from CFS patients, their friends and families provide support to the entire CFS community by enabling the Association to spend money where it's needed most: on patient support, research, public awareness, public policy advocacy and medical provider education. It's these unrestricted gifts—more than 80 percent of which come from individuals just like you—that create a solid financial platform from which the Association can do its work.

Without that financial stability, all of the Association's ongoing programs—from the research campaign to public awareness to patient support—would flounder.

So here's to all the people whose personal acts of generosity provide services to the CFS community. We're proud to share a few of their stories with you.



**Philanthropy comes down to the people who give and the work that's achieved through those gifts. Meet some of the people whose generosity funds our work.**

## Sister Sandra Duma: Faithful Funder

"No matter what your faith or religious background, I believe we're all connected to a greater depth of reality and connected with one another. When we give to a cause greater than ourselves, we're affirming that connection."

This is how Sister Sandra Duma of the Franciscan Order of the Sacred Heart in Illinois describes her motivation to give money to help others with CFS. Ill since 1978, she's been an Association member since 1998 and gives what she can every year when the Association has its annual fund drive.

Gifts from people like Sister Sandra are the backbone of the Association's budget. Since most gifts generated by the annual fund drive are unrestricted funds, the Association may use this money on the programs that need it most and to meet ongoing operating expenses. Annual fund gifts literally "keep the lights on" so that we can keep doing our work.

Sister Sandra believes this type of overall support is important. "I have such a sense of gratitude to the Association for standing up for all of us who can't. I've been so impressed by how the Association has worked on the federal level on policy changes and how it's worked to build recognition of CFS in the general public. In *everything* the Association has done, I've found a sense of hope, a sense that there is a community united with me in this journey.

"I don't know what I would have done all these years without the knowledge that the CFIDS Association has been behind me. My health has improved. I still have ups and downs, but my goal is to give more service to other CFS patients, and that includes donating what I can. The CFIDS Association saved my life, and they're still giving me hope!"



### Larry Baldwin: Covering the Bases

Larry Baldwin, MD, of Hibbing, Minnesota, found himself sitting on the other side of the examination table when he became ill with CFS in 1993. Since then he has used his medical training to help CFS patients get knowledgeable medical

care—most recently by pairing up with the CFIDS Association’s Provider Education Project to lecture medical students and faculty at the University of North Dakota. He has also consistently supported the CFIDS Association as a donor, both with unrestricted gifts and gifts directed specifically toward research.

“I understand that the message has to get out that this is a disease, a terrible disease, and people who have it need help. And that takes gifts of activity *and* dollars,”

says Dr. Baldwin, who contributes to the annual fund drive for that purpose.

While the Association depends upon unrestricted gifts to cover general operations, gifts directed toward specific purposes are vital, as well. Contributing to [The Campaign to Accelerate CFS Research](#), with a goal to raise \$1 million for research by the end of 2008, is an excellent example of this type of giving.

So in addition to being an annual fund donor, Dr. Baldwin was an early supporter of the Association’s ambitious new research campaign, making one of the first gifts toward that initiative.

Says Dr. Baldwin, “In addition to everything else, we have this powerful, ultimate challenge to find a cure. Clearly research is needed, and that takes gifts as well. We’re all waiting for a cure. Speaking as a surgeon and as a CFS patient, I’ve seen both sides of the suffering, and I’m convinced a cure is out there.

“I think of us as being on a journey, and through this research initiative we’re stepping up the pace of the journey. The power of ideas is leading the way. But harnessing those ideas takes money, and I’m proud to share what I can to help.”

### Marlene Marshall: Fighting the Good Fight One Month at a Time

Marlene Marshall lives with her husband, Dick, in Clarksburg, California. But life hasn’t always been quiet for Marlene. A former registered nurse, Marlene served in the Gulf War with a rank of lieutenant colonel before CFS forced her retirement from the U.S. Air Force. She and her husband, also a retired officer, had military experience, but nothing that prepared them for the battle they’d wage for Marlene’s health.



Marlene, who uses the [Association’s Chairman’s Circle program](#) to make monthly gifts by automatic draft, says she gives out of a “sense of gratitude for being richly blessed, and so other people don’t have to go through the hell I’ve been through with this disease.” After surviving cancer twice since her CFS diagnosis in 1991, Marlene has seen a vast improvement in her CFS symptoms since undergoing chemotherapy.

Chairman’s Circle donors like Marlene provide an important, stable stream of income the Association can count on to cover operating and program-related costs regardless of the natural ebb and flow of other donations throughout the year. For the donors, it also provides a convenient way to pace out their donations to the Association.

“Giving to the CFIDS Association is something I feel privileged to do,” says Marlene, age 69. “This illness hit me harder than cancer ever did. Let’s just say I wouldn’t want to live through the ‘90s again!”

“I believe if I can pool my little gift with other gifts, it becomes significant. And I’m seeing more CFS stories in the media lately. That tells me that something’s working! So my small amount is not insignificant. I’m not insignificant.”

- Evelyn Walpus of Temple City, California;  
Chairman’s Circle member for 10 years



### Leaving a Legacy

This year the CFIDS Association has received four bequests from women whose donor history with the organization was modest—a testament to their generosity and to the principle that, through gift planning, even individuals of ordinary means can make a sizeable contribution to help the CFS community.

**Florence Bell** of Eugene, Oregon, died in January after a full life of 81 years. According to her daughter, Deborah Kelly, her mother “had watched me struggle with CFS since 1985 and wanted to help.” Deborah sent a gift according to the terms of her mother’s will “to continue the fight against this disease.”

When the estate of **Vicki Wagner** of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, settled in December 2007, the Association received \$34,973—her first and only gift.

The estate of **Elaine Golden** of Scottsdale, Arizona, sent an unexpected \$142,908 to the Association in 2007. Prior to this, Elaine’s gifts had ranged from \$15 to \$200 per year.

**Juanita Brown** of Naples, Florida, last renewed her membership in 2001 and had made periodic gifts ranging from \$25-100. Her estate notified the Association to expect a five-figure gift which Juanita earmarked for CFS research.

We honor these special women for their lives and for their generosity.