

My Life-Changing Work with Doctors Without Borders Inspired Me to Include the Organization in My Estate Plan



Mary Jo Frawley found going on assignment as a nurse for the non-profit so rewarding, she chose to name the organization as a future beneficiary of her retirement account.



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When I came back from my first Doctors Without Borders assignment in Sri Lanka after joining the organization in 1999 as a nurse, I knew this was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I was working on a surgical project there for nine months providing post-operative trauma care, and it just lit me up. When I came home, my friends looked at me and said, “This was the one-off you were going to do, right?” And they knew by the look on my face that there was more to it than that.

Before joining Doctors Without Borders, I was a nurse at a hospital in Long Beach, California, for about 15 years. For the majority of that time, I volunteered with a team that went to Guatemala every year on short-term medical missions. After about 10 years, I started to feel that two or three weeks in the field wasn’t quite enough for me. So, I looked into working for Doctors Without Borders, and eventually applied. Needless to say, I’ve never looked back.

I have worked on several surgical assignments, infectious disease projects, Ebola interventions, and more. During the 20 years that I’ve been with Doctors Without Borders, I’ve never done the same thing twice. I was in Haiti after the earthquake for about a year; I was in Pakistan hiking the hills of Kashmir looking for post-earthquake victims; I worked on an HIV project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. One of the reasons I love working for Doctors Without Borders so much is because, through them, I have the opportunity to be in places where no other medical organizations go.



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The assignments I’ve embarked on have lasted anywhere from six weeks to 14 months. I’m currently on the Ocean Viking ship in the Central Mediterranean working on a three-month search-and-rescue mission. We are helping to bring refugees and migrants who are fleeing conflict to safety. I love doing search and rescue—nobody deserves to drown at sea. One of my favorite parts about the work is the community I get to be a part of, which also happens to be what I like most about being a nurse—I’m able to work in communities and to learn something new about them. Doctors Without Borders gives me the opportunity to do that every day I show up.

This is one of the reasons I named Doctors Without Borders as a [beneficiary](#) on my retirement account. I learned about the ability to include a charity as a beneficiary of a financial account four years ago during a consultation with my personal financial coordinator, and as soon as I did, making the commitment became an obvious choice. Doctors Without Borders is an organization I really believe in; that I have immense confidence in; that I’ve seen operate on the ground in some very challenging situations, and I really want to support the organization well into the future with my giving.

Personally, I think that if you believe in a cause or see an organization you want to continue to grow, this is one great way to be able to help. Why not put resources in your estate toward something you’re strongly committed to?

To learn more about Doctors Without Borders’ planned giving program, and how you can include the organization in your estate plan through a gift in your will, trust, bank, brokerage, or retirement account, go [here](#).

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