In 1995, Melissa Fajardo’s mother Victoria was diagnosed with cancer in one breast at just 30 years old. After receiving successful treatment, which resulted in remission, she was again diagnosed with breast cancer only five years later – this time in the other breast. She underwent a double mastectomy, a treatment which she hoped would mean that she had finally seen the last of cancer. However, her family was shocked when, in 2016, what she thought was a broken hip turned out to be cancer that had metastasized.

“She occasionally complained of pain at the time, but she didn’t really talk about it much because she didn’t want to burden us,” Melissa explained. “Then one day she called me and said: ‘I don’t have the best news – you know what it is.’ That’s how I learned she had cancer again.”

Upon receiving the news, Melissa moved from South Carolina back to her hometown of Providence, Rhode Island, to care for Victoria. She regularly accompanied her mother on long drives from Providence to Boston for her appointments. “We considered moving her to another hospital,” Melissa remembers, “but she insisted on going to Dana-Farber. She valued the access to such great doctors. And during the entirety of her final two years, she had an incredible support system, including a social worker who not only helped her navigate her care, but who also supported my family as we fought alongside her.”

Sadly, Victoria passed away in 2018 after a difficult battle. To this day, Melissa and her family find new ways to honor Victoria’s memory and legacy. Recently, Melissa decided to include Dana-Farber in her will, in hopes that other families in need will experience the attention and care that her family did. “I don’t consider myself a philanthropist,” Melissa notes, “but I believe so deeply in what Dana-Farber has to offer patients and their families; so it was important for me to include Dana-Farber in my estate plan. It might not be a lot, but I know that every dollar will go to good use.”

Melissa hopes that, with more gifts like hers, more families – particularly those in marginalized groups, including people of color – will receive the same care that hers did. “My family is Colombian; and in my culture we rarely advocate for ourselves or ask for help. But I know that in addition to the cost of treatment, many are burdened with additional related expenses, such as fuel costs for travel, hotel stays, and food while away from home. Dana-Farber helps families with all of that. But too many people are not even aware that these resources are available, and instead forego treatment in fear of being unable to afford it. There is a lot we can do – but we cannot do it without the generosity of others. I hope that others will consider joining me in supporting Dana-Farber.”

Melissa feels strongly that her planned gift is a great way to honor her mother’s legacy and spirit. “Throughout the entire process, she was so positive and optimistic. At the end, I had to tell her that it was ok to let go. I knew she was holding on for my brother and me. I told her: ‘You are one hell of a woman to get through this.’ Now, I hope my contributions will help provide support to other patients and their families, and ease some of their heavy burdens.”
Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to share our latest Planned Giving newsletter. In it, you’ll find a story about a daughter who pays tribute to her mother’s spirit through a meaningful bequest. We’ve also included information about how the recent increase in Charitable Gift Annuity rates makes giving to Dana-Farber an even bigger win, a 75th anniversary photo retrospective of Dana-Farber, and more.

This edition of the newsletter arrives around National Estate Planning Awareness Week, which this year is October 17 – 23. For those of us in the Planned Giving field every week is estate planning week. But this time is a special time for everyone to consider their legacy plans and how they would like to be remembered. And, of course, creating a thoughtful estate plan gives you the chance to make a meaningful gift to the causes you care about most. It’s an incredible way for you to support our mission and have a lasting impact as a leader in the effort to defy cancer.

As we begin year five of The Dana-Farber Campaign, our ambitious, multi-year fundraising effort to change the future of cancer research and care, a planned gift to Dana-Farber will accelerate the Institute’s strategic priorities and bring us closer to our goal of growing our Dana-Farber Society to 2,000 members by 2024. And if you are 65 or older, your legacy intention may allow you to receive recognition immediately. The Planned Giving team is here to answer your questions and find the plan that’s right for you. Please reach out to us anytime.

Thank you for your continued generosity and partnership in our lifesaving mission.

With appreciation,

Erin M. McKenna
Assistant Vice President, Planned Giving
Charitable Gift Annuities: Receive income for life and support Dana-Farber

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a way to support the mission you are passionate about while providing lifetime income for yourself and/or a loved one.

Now, it’s an even bigger win because CGA rates increased on July 1!

CGAs can be funded with cash or appreciated securities and tailored to your individual goals including:

- Fixed income for life for you and/or a loved one—a portion of which may be tax-free
- An immediate charitable tax deduction
- Capital gains tax savings, if funded with appreciated stock

To explore this and other smart planned giving opportunities, visit Dana-Farber.org/CGA or contact us at planned_giving@dfci.harvard.edu or 800-535-5577.

Top Tax Tips

Last month, Professor Russell James, J.D., Ph.D., CFP®, Director of Graduate Studies in Charitable Financial Planning at Texas Tech University, joined Dana-Farber for an event that gave donors the latest tips on the smartest ways to give in 2022 and beyond. Below are three of his tax-wise strategies for making the biggest impact with your charitable giving.

- Donate appreciated non-cash assets, such as stock, IRAs, qualified retirement accounts, and real estate. When you give them directly to Dana-Farber you can avoid the capital gains taxes or income taxes you would otherwise have to pay.

- If you’re age 70.5 or older and have an IRA, you can make a donation directly from your IRA. If you are 72 or older these gifts can also satisfy the minimum distribution the IRS requires you to withdraw. Making a gift straight from your IRA to Dana-Farber means the money is not taxable income, which creates tax savings for you and more support for Dana-Farber.

- A gift through your will or trust is a flexible gift option that can be revised at any time and can be made as a specific amount or a percentage of your estate. In addition, your gift entitles your estate to an unlimited federal estate tax charitable deduction.

Want to hear more smart ways to give? Visit blog.jimmyfund.org/2022/09/smarter-ways-to-give-top-tax-tips to watch the recording of the webinar with Dr. James.
Yes, I will help Defy Cancer by including Dana-Farber in my legacy plans!

- I have included Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund in my estate plans.
  - Please list name(s) in the Dana-Farber Society as ____________________________________________________
  - I prefer to remain anonymous
- I am interested in learning more about planned giving options benefiting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund
  - Tell me more about _______________________________
- I am interested in learning more about Dana-Farber’s President’s Circle, honoring donors who make gifts of $1,500 or more
- Other

Name
Street Address
City/State/Zip
Phone
Email

Financial Advisor contact information:
Email
Phone
Name of Firm

I have a donor-advised fund at ____________________________________________________

For more information, visit Dana-Farber.org/PlannedGiving
If you wish to opt out of receiving fundraising mailings, please call 800-525-4669 or visit JimmyFund.org/Opt-Out.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week

National Estate Planning Awareness Week was adopted in 2008 to help people understand what estate planning is and why it’s more than just a strategy for financial wellness. Estate planning is a way to ensure your wishes are known and your intentions will be honored. Having a well-thought-out estate plan means that only people you trust have the power to care for you, your loved ones, your pets, your possessions, and your vision for the world. Your estate plan can provide answers to unanticipated questions that come up about your life, death, sickness, and the unknown. It also provides you and those around you peace of mind because your intentions are known.

To include Dana-Farber in your plans, here is sample language to share with your attorney: "I bequeath (a specific dollar amount/_______ percentage or the entire residue of my estate) to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Inc., 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215 (for cancer research and patient care, or for a specific purpose important to you). Dana-Farber’s Federal Tax ID: 04-2263040."

Melody S. Chartier, CFP®, CAP®
Director, Planned Giving

Three fun facts:
1. I was the setter for my college volleyball team and also coached the men’s volleyball club. Extra fun fact: I can walk under a volleyball net without ducking!
3. I am new to Dana-Farber (April 2022), but not new to cancer since I am a 14-year cancer survivor. I believe strongly in the mission of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund - and the lifesaving difference it can make in people’s lives.

National Estate Planning Awareness Week

We love connecting with you. We also want you to have a chance to get to know us. That’s why each newsletter features a staff member, some fun facts about them, and why they’re also committed to Dana-Farber’s mission.

Making Connections

Financial Advisor contact information:
Email
Phone
Name of Firm

For more information, visit Dana-Farber.org/PlannedGiving
If you wish to opt out of receiving fundraising mailings, please call 800-525-4669 or visit JimmyFund.org/Opt-Out.
Together, we can defy cancer at every turn.

75 Years of Changing Lives

Dana-Farber’s story began with the first successful treatment of blood cancers by Sidney Farber, MD, in 1947, earning him the reputation as the “father of modern chemotherapy.” The Institute’s Jimmy Fund Building, its first dedicated space, was built in 1961. It was the original home of the Jimmy Fund Clinic, which featured a small carousel, an electric train set, paintings of Walt Disney characters, and a TV embedded in a plaster model of a mountain. Now, 75 years later, Dana-Farber has expanded to 28 locations, stretching from southern New Hampshire to the South Shore of Massachusetts, and a mobile health program, including our Mammography Van, which brings our care to people in the neighborhoods where they live and work. Our combination of clinical treatment, bench-to-bedside research, and high-quality holistic patient care has made the Institute a leader in life-changing breakthroughs, providing the most advanced treatments available.

Your support is fueling our growth and funding the future. Thank you.

1. The original ‘Jimmy’ and friends watch the TV he received from the Boston Braves.
2. The Jimmy Fund Building at the time of its construction.
3. The children’s carousel in the Jimmy Fund Clinic during the 1950s.
Charlotte, age six, a patient in Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic

Photo credit: Katie Moran/KaeRae Photography