

A “Harvest of Joy”



Jim Schroeder
Gift Planning
Counselor
877.913.2221 (toll free)
[jim.schroeder@](mailto:jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org)
idwlcms.org

In 1994 the Iowa District West board of directors took a step to assist individual members of the district congregations in funding the mission of the district through gifts from their estates. They established the Iowa District West “Harvest of Joy” Endowment and Legacy Fund. The mission of the district is to “Connect, Resource, and Partner with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District and into all of the world.”

The district Endowment and Legacy Fund is managed by a committee appointed by the district board of directors. The chairman of the “Harvest of Joy” Endowment and Legacy Fund Committee is the district treasurer Jim Christensen from Denison. The Endowment and Legacy Fund Committee meets quarterly to receive gifts to the fund, manage the assets of the fund, and make distributions from the fund to support different ministries of the district. The Endowment and Legacy Fund has four committee-directed accounts:

1. Joy in Serving - Undesignated Gifts for the area of greatest need in the district;
2. Joy in Salvation – For mission work in the district;
3. Joy in Ministry – Scholarships for students from district congregations studying for full time ministry; and
4. IOWAY – Gifts to support the Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth program. Individuals in the district may establish their own fund with their own gift restrictions with a gift of \$25,000 or more.

Since the inception of the fund, the Lord has blessed the district with many gifts to fund the mission of the district. The Koepke family made a gift to the district from their estate of 640 acres of farmland near Westside, IA. The investment income from the assets from the sale of this farm is being used by the district Endowment and Legacy Fund Committee for programs for youth in Iowa District West. Ben and Mabel Kouhns made a gift to the

district of 830 acres of farmland near Ogden, IA. The rent from this farmland is now being used for mission projects all over Iowa District West. With Ben’s Kouhns’ encouragement, his sister Helen Kouhns made a gift of 570 acres of farmland near Ogden, IA to the district for scholarships.

The district has been blessed with many other gifts of differing sizes and for different purposes. Each gift is considered precious by the district Endowment and Legacy Fund Committee. They take much care and concern to protect the assets of the gifts through prudent investments. They offer gift planning help through a partnership with the LCMS Foundation. Since 1988, the services of Iowa District West Gift Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder have been made available to the members of Iowa District West congregations. Jim makes presentations in district congregations and families can request his help in developing their Christian Estate Plan at no cost or obligation. Jim helps each family determine their estate planning goals for their family and their favorite ministries.

Many of the families in Iowa District West believe in the mission of the district and want to continue their support of the mission of the district even after they go home to be with the Lord. If you would like to continue your support of any area of the ministry of Iowa District West, you are invited to contact Jim Schroeder to assist you in your planning. To God be the Glory for the “Harvest of Joy” in Iowa District West.

If you would like more information on developing your Christian Gift Plan contact Jim Schroeder at 1.877.913.2221 toll free or email Jim.Schroeder@idwlcms.org. Visit the Foundation’s web site at www.lfndgp.org.

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