

Establishing a Legacy to Continue FORE's Work



Rose T. Dunn, RHIA, FAHIMA, CHP, is incoming chair of FORE's Board of Directors and a member of FORE's Legacy Circle.

AHIMA's Foundation of Research and Education has established the FORE Legacy Circle to recognize members who have included the foundation in their estate plans. These donors and their deferred gifts help to assure that the work of FORE will continue to have a positive impact on HIM and our members long into the future.

Legacy Circle member Rose T. Dunn, RHIA, FAHIMA, CHP, veteran HIM professional of 30 years, has been a member of AHIMA since her student days when she "mistakenly pursued medical records" as a career at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Dunn had intended to pursue medical research as a career, but her high school guidance counselor steered her into medical records. It wasn't until her junior year was nearly over that she discovered (during her internship) that the courses she had been taking were not transferable to a career in medical research.

However, Dunn has never regretted the error. "It's been a wonderful career," she says. That career has taken her from roles as HIM director to hospital administrator and eventually CFO. She also worked in the managed care industry. These responsibilities allowed Dunn to use all of her HIM skills while giving her a broad perspective on the healthcare industry. Eventually they provided her with the impetus to establish her own HIM consulting firm, First Class Solutions.

Setting the Tone for a Lifetime of Giving

During her years as AHIMA's president-elect, president, and immediate past-president (1992-95), Dunn took an active role in revitalizing FORE as the fund-raising arm of AHIMA. A new, expanded role for the Foundation was a vital part of the Vision 2006 initiative. And Dunn has continued her involvement as a vice chair of the 2003 FORE Board of Directors and incoming chair for 2004.

Dunn says she feels a special kinship to the work of the Foundation, so much so that she decided to remember FORE in her will. "Deferred giving is significant because down the road, I know my estate will grow and with it, my gift to FORE," she says.



Dunn wanted to make an important gift to those entities that have been instrumental in her career, including FORE. The Foundation provided educational opportunities, career opportunities, and (most importantly according to Dunn), "uses its funds efficiently and effectively for the purposes for which they are donated."

For members who have been supporters of FORE through annual donations, a deferred gift is a way to perpetuate that support through their estate plans. Planned giving offers a range of opportunities to make a gift to FORE that may also provide positive financial and tax benefits to you or your estate.

If you are interested in additional information on deferred giving to the Foundation or are interested in becoming a member of the Legacy Circle, please contact Eileen Murray, director of the FORE Foundation at eileen.murray@ahima.org or (312) 233-1167. ■

Member Benefit Offers Access to New Tool

AHIMA members are finding value in one of the newest member benefits offered by AHIMA and HSS Inc. At the AHIMA National Convention, members learned how to get free access to Hospital INSIGHT, HSS' premier, Web-based benchmarking and analytical tool,

through the Hospital INSIGHT Advantage Program. AHIMA members can access Hospital INSIGHT's Performance Summary Profiles for any Medicare hospital in the nation at no charge.

Members also take advantage of an offer to get free access to Hospital INSIGHT's Casemix Index Report. This report quantifies the reimbursement

impact of hospitals' coding and compliance practices and identifies services where coding practices may be putting hospitals at compliance risk. To learn more, go to the Member Benefits section at www.ahima.org and click on Data Resources.

