

Media Release
Jewish Foundation of Memphis
6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38138



For Immediate Release

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Three Local Jewish Organizations Benefit From Donated Retirement Assets

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 19, 2009– Utilizing money from a mature Individual Retirement Asset (IRA) fund, Curt Ward chose to take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover recently extended as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act passed in October of this year. The act allows individuals who are 70 ½ and older to use retirement assets to make a current charitable gift. These gifts are not subject to income tax because they are not included in your gross income.

“I had an IRA from the estate of my wife, Hedi, of blessed memory, which matured. I wanted to take advantage of the tax benefits available and also to use those funds to make gifts to organizations I knew had an impact on my life over the past year,” said Ward of the gifts.

“I used a portion of the funds to pay the first half of my pledge to the MJCC’s Capital Campaign, a portion to [Temple Israel Senior] Rabbi Micah Greenstein’s discretionary fund in honor of my wife’s unveiling and a portion to the Jewish Foundation of Memphis to show gratitude for the many ways they have been a help to me over the last year,” concluded Ward.

The gifts were made on behalf of Curt Ward and his son, Jeffrey

Curt Ward is an active member of the community since retiring as administrative vice president from the Sealy Mattress Company in 1987. His wife, Hedi, worked as a social worker in the welfare department first for the city of New York and then Shelby County until her retirement. Hedi also worked as a math and science teacher for the Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South, educating many of this community’s prominent Jewish professionals. Their son Jeffrey owns the Winery and Brew Shop in Memphis.

If you would like more information about how you can take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover provision and support your favorite Jewish organizations, please contact the Jewish Foundation of Memphis at 901-374-0400 or email:

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