



# Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins, president, Angus Foundation*

## Unlimited possibilities

*Nationally recognized and long-time artist of beautiful Angus paintings, Frank Champion Murphy, on behalf of "That Old West Magic" Event Steering Committee, penned the words "To Bob, Your vision inspires us to see the possibilities of our breed, each other and ourselves!" on a rare The Mists of Autumn print framed and presented to Bob Funk of Express Ranches in appreciation for his invaluable support.*

### A little magic

Funk was honored for hosting and significantly underwriting the Angus Foundation's overwhelmingly successful fundraising event "That Old West Magic" Gala and Auction at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City in August.

Inspired by Bob's vision, Angus breeders and allied industry interests and friends from across the country helped raise \$345,000 toward Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus, the Angus breed's ambitious fundraising effort, helping us all to see the unlimited possibilities for our breed, each other and ourselves.

A short two weeks after the event, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) licensees, distributors, fabricators, purveyors, etc., raised more than \$67,000 at the 2008 CAB Annual Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the "Mick" Colvin Scholarship Fund in the Angus Foundation, enabling us to reach the \$5 million milestone toward the campaign's overall goal of \$11 million.

As Angus breeders, we should be immensely proud of the unlimited amount of enthusiasm and passion these individuals have for moving CAB product, domestically, as well as internationally, and "riding for the Angus brand."

It goes without saying that they, too, see the unlimited possibilities in our breed, each other and ourselves and are giving something back by investing in our Angus youth through the Colvin Scholarship Fund and the campaign. As with yours, their leadership and financial support is genuinely appreciated.

### End-of-year opportunity

Looking ahead to the possibilities in front of us, we diligently continue to forge forward with our campaign fundraising efforts. With the end-of-the-year rapidly approaching and charitable giving decisions being made

for tax purposes, it is our hope that the Angus Foundation can merit your serious consideration and be viewed as an option for your charitable gifts.

Regardless of the charity(ies) you decide to support, keep in mind that in order to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return, your gift

must be completed by Dec. 31. For cash or gifts by check, this means your gift must be personally delivered or mailed to the charity in an envelope postmarked no later than Dec. 31. (See "Association Highlights," page 41.)

By now, you should have received the Angus Foundation's annual fund solicitation in the mail seeking your financial support. These unrestricted charitable gifts, regardless of size, play an extremely crucial role in our abilities to fund education, youth and research activities.

With the increasing costs involved in conducting Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences, Raising the Bar conferences, Cattlemen's Boot Camps and other activities supported by the Angus Foundation, unrestricted financial support that can be budgeted toward these projects will help ensure their long-term viability at the "first-class" caliber of which they're expected. Should you be interested in either an annual sponsorship or permanently funding one of these events, we would be glad to discuss these possibilities with you.

### Reaching our goal

When combined together, my gifts and yours will go a long way toward bringing a number of possibilities and, more importantly, dreams, to reality for the benefit of our members and youth.

Should you be 70½ years of age and older, you will be interested in knowing the

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush, includes provisions for you to make tax-free charitable gifts in 2008 and 2009 from traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Donors can choose to make charitable distributions from their IRA up to \$100,000 (total) directly to qualified charities. (Your Angus Foundation is a qualified 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity eligible to receive these types of funds.) Know also that couples with separate IRAs can each give up to that \$100,000 amount.

Making gifts from IRA funds that would ordinarily be treated as part of their adjusted gross income (AGI) subject to tax if withdrawn voluntarily or under mandatory withdrawal requirements may be a wise choice

for many wishing to support the Angus Foundation. An added benefit is these funds will never be subject to estate taxation. Feel free to check with your advisors or call me about the best ways to take advantage of this giving opportunity.

All charitable gifts to the Angus Foundation will count toward Vision of Value: Campaign for Angus and you will be recognized as a donor to this monumental Angus fundraising campaign for education, youth and research to benefit the Angus breed.

Like Bob Funk, supporters at That Old West Magic and our enthusiastic CAB fan club members promoting our product to the consumer, we hope that you too will see the unlimited possibilities of our breed, each other and ourselves.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season and our very best wishes to you for a prosperous 2009!

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**Author's note:** Visit [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org) for more information regarding the Angus Foundation, scholarships and the campaign.