



Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins*, director of development, Angus Foundation

Doing the right thing

As parents of a teenager, my wife, Peggy, and I have strived hard over the years to instill in our daughter, Dallas, the importance of “doing the right thing” in all aspects of our lives. This philosophy and simple approach to living one’s life was illustrated and witnessed recently on a significantly larger scale by all of us.

A humbling experience

In the aftermath of devastating hurricanes Katrina and Rita earlier this fall, the selfless outpouring of charitable financial support from kind, caring and compassionate fellow human beings across the United States was profoundly humbling to me and my family, as I’m sure it was to you and your family also!

According to the *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* (Sept. 15, 2005):

“Americans — overwhelmed by images of death, destruction, and widespread despair in the days following the hurricane — have responded rapidly with offers of money, volunteer help, rooms in their homes, and transportation. By mid-October, cash donations had exceeded \$587 million, far more than the sums donated in the initial days following the September 11, 2001, terrorism attacks.”

Even more impressive is that this amount didn’t include the hundreds of millions of dollars in support generously donated after Rita dealt her harsh blow.

Angus support

Always ready to lend a helping hand to neighbors in need, Angus breeders unselfishly availed their personal financial resources by supporting the relief efforts in countless and meaningful ways. Likewise, wanting to help, the American Angus Association corporately supported the local American Red Cross in this massive aid effort. On all accounts, that’s what I call doing the right thing!

Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-Fax, while addressing the attendees at the National Angus Conference & Tour, reinforced this when he referenced the disaster and asked everyone present if they had made a donation to the effort. If not, Blach encouraged everyone to “get ’er done.” Blach was similarly telling us to do the right thing.

You should contact your personal financial advisors and legal counsel for

specific details about the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (KETRA) legislation that President Bush signed into law Sept. 23, 2005. This legislation offers additional income tax deduction incentives to donors making cash gifts to charities between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31 by temporarily suspending the income limits on charitable donations to all charities, not just to charities engaged in work related to Hurricane Katrina.

When I further reflect on doing the right thing from a charitable giving standpoint, the story, by an unknown author, of the wise woman’s stone comes to mind.

A wise woman found a precious stone one day while traveling. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the

stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But a few days later he came back to return the stone, telling the woman:

‘I’ve been thinking. I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone.’

First thing’s first

Yes, admittedly, the Angus Foundation seeks your financial gifts and we hope that you’re considering a tax-deductible contribution to our 2006 Annual Fund, “The Power of One Gift,” before the end of the calendar year.

But, even more importantly, we want you to first do the right thing in supporting the hurricane relief efforts, if you haven’t done so already, then the Angus Foundation.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season!

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