



# Direction, Guidance, and Help

The story behind Nancy and Dave Kurth's gifts to  
Sweet Adelines International

**I**n 1969, Nancy Kurth saw photos of the local Sweet Adelines chorus preparing for a show in the Sunday newspaper of her hometown, St. Joseph, Missouri (USA).

"I was out of college and singing in my church choir, but it didn't give me the performance piece that I loved, so when I saw they were doing a show, I thought, 'Oh, that's what I want to do!'" she said.

Fifty years later, singing with Sweet Adelines is still what she wants to do. Nancy's career in insurance meant her family moved often due to promotions. She has been a member of seven Sweet Adelines choruses, part of the directing team in five of them, and serves on the Regional Management Team. Today, she sings bass with Rave quartet and Pride of Portland Chorus and directs Northwest Harmony Chorus, and Sweet Adelines are still inspiring her.

Nancy has served with Sweet Adelines' Young Singers Foundation (YSF) since its inception and currently chairs the YSF Advancement Committee. The YSF provides scholarships for students pursuing degrees in music education. Nancy and her husband, Dave, included YSF in their estate planning. After leaving equal percentages to their children and other family members, the Kurths had a percentage left over. When their financial planner asked if there was a nonprofit they would like to give it to, Nancy said they immediately suggested YSF because of what music has meant to her.

"Growing up, my brothers had sports, and I didn't have any outlet like that until I found music," she said. "Music helped me develop as a young person, and it was my high school music teacher who was my greatest influence in getting me focused on

going to college. My teacher helped me fill out my applications for college and helped me decide where to go. If my contribution can help a music educator give someone else direction, guidance, and help, that's what I want to do."

The Kurths are glad to know that they can help continue the legacy of Sweet Adelines International, but "we also talked about how enjoyable it is to be able to see the result of our donation in addition to thinking about how it will continue once we've passed," said Nancy.

At the international convention in New Orleans, the Kurths celebrated Nancy's fiftieth year in Sweet Adelines and memorialized the life of her nephew, Keegan Rice, a 27-year-old musician, dancer and actor, with a \$10,000 matching gift to Sweet Adelines International's Support Life on a High Note campaign. Their gift inspired individual members of the international board of directors to add \$10,000 USD to match. The Kurth's generosity gave the Support Life on a High Note campaign a great boost toward its goal of raising \$150,000 for Sweet Adelines International educational and other programs by Dec. 31, 2019.

"In Scottsdale's chorus education class in New Orleans, one of their members came out and spoke," Nancy said. "She was 89 years old, soon to be 90, well-spoken and active in that chorus, and I thought, 'That's what I want. That's my goal...to still, at 89 almost 90, be able to perform with a high quality chorus and feel like I'm contributing.'"

Nancy said she hopes the Kurths' gifts help give all singers lifelong access to the power of music.

"I know what music can do for a young person's life and how important it can be, so I want to support that." ❀

**Making Sweet Adelines part of your estate planning through a will or charitable trust means your generosity will last beyond your lifetime.**

To find out how you can make Sweet Adelines International part of your estate planning, consult with your financial planner and contact Sweet Adelines International Director of Philanthropy Susan Smith at [philanthropy@sweetadelines.com](mailto:philanthropy@sweetadelines.com) or 1.918.388.8040.