



NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

WHD Legacy Society

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1: SUMMER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Planning your legacy*
- *Rooted in nature*
- *Legacy Society Luncheon*

CHART YOUR LEGACY

Navigate a Future of Impact

August is National Make-a-Will Month—a timely reminder that planning your legacy is one of the most impactful steps you can take for your loved ones and the causes you cherish. At the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, planned giving offers flexible, tax-smart strategies to support world-changing plant science while achieving your personal financial and philanthropic goals.

One of the simplest ways to make a lasting difference is by naming the Danforth Center as a beneficiary of your 401(k), 403(b), IRA, or life insurance policy. This approach bypasses probate, is easy to update, and can reduce the tax burden on your heirs—since retirement assets passed to individuals are often subject to income taxes, whereas gifts to nonprofits like the Danforth Center are tax-exempt.

You can also include the Danforth Center in your will or trust through a bequest, allowing you to retain full control of your assets during your lifetime while leaving a meaningful legacy. Other options include charitable gift annuities, which provide you with fixed lifetime income, and charitable remainder trusts, which offer income and significant tax advantages.

When you notify us of your planned gift, you'll be welcomed into the WHD Legacy Society—named in honor of our founder, Dr. William H. Danforth. Members receive exclusive updates, invitations to special events, and the satisfaction of knowing their generosity is fueling innovation that feeds the world and heals the planet.

To explore your options, visit legacy.danforthcenter.org or contact Parker Butler at 314.587.1071 or pbutler@danforthcenter.org.

A NURSE, A HIKER, A LEGACY
Norma Deen Juracsik's Journey to Plant Science Philanthropy

Norma Deen Juracsik first toured the Danforth Center in 2002, shortly after the main building and greenhouses opened. "I was impressed and thought, 'I'll send them a donation!'" That first \$50 gift grew over the years—and so did her connection.

Rooted in Nature and Advocacy
A retired nurse and passionate environmentalist, Norma spent years leading walking tours in Forest Park, hiking at the Shaw Nature Reserve and around the country, and engaging with organizations like the Sierra Club. Her deep concern for clean air, water, and healthy food naturally drew her to the Danforth Center's mission to feed the



▲ Norma Deen Juracsik enjoys a moment in the Danforth Center prairie, where her passion for nature and science come full circle.

hungry, preserve the environment, and advance St. Louis as a global hub for plant science.

A Legacy of Belonging
Norma joined the Friends of Plant Science in 2012 and the Danforth Society in 2024. She has recently made a planned gift through the WHD Legacy Society. "If you give now, you're more a part of things," she says. "Since I became a more serious donor, I've been invited to more intimate events, like lunch with the CEO."

For Norma Deen, giving is about connection. **"Even when I was giving just \$100 a year, people at the Danforth Center knew my name. That made me feel like I belonged."**



▲ *"Our goal is to unlock the full potential of plant genetics using the tools nature already provides."*
Keith Slotkin, PhD
Danforth Center principal investigator and professor of biology at University of Missouri – Columbia



▲ **WHD LEGACY SOCIETY LUNCHEON**

On November 13, 2024, President and CEO Jim Carrington, PhD, welcomed members of the WHD Legacy Society to the Board Room for our annual Legacy Society Luncheon. Principal Investigator Keith Slotkin, PhD, presented exciting news from his lab: a new technology that stands to revolutionize genome editing.

August is Make-a-Will Month. If you'd like more information or sample bequest language, call Parker Butler at 314.587.1071.

Join others who are helping the Danforth Center fast-forward to a future where plants nourish both ourselves and the Earth. When you make a gift to the Future Forward campaign, you create a legacy of care for generations to come. Learn more at campaign.danforthcenter.org.



DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

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LEGACY ADVISORY COUNCIL Ken Bower, *Clayton Financial*; Steve Daiker, *Harrison LLP*;
Matt Perlow, *Husch Blackwell*; Bud Strong, *Husch Blackwell*

Don't-Miss Events

SEEDS OF CHANGE



Aug. 27

Dr. Cary Fowler,
father of the Svalbard
Global Seed Vault

Sept. 26

All are welcome
to the Young
Friends' Fundraiser

EVENT TICKETS
& RESERVATIONS:



PARTY
WITH THE
PLANTS

Plants in Paradise