When Vic Althouse decided to pursue his doctorate in 1957, he chose Stanford.

The problem was, he wasn’t sure Stanford would choose him. But after watching a fellow chemist passed over for promotion for lack of a PhD, Vic was determined to be ready when opportunity knocked.

So he picked up the phone, crossed his fingers, and dialed.

“Stanford said, ‘Come on up,’” recalls Vic, who had a chemistry degree from UCLA and two years in the Army under his belt when he arrived in Palo Alto that fall. “Not only was I admitted, but Stanford helped with my tuition. I could handle the first quarter with the GI Bill, but after that Dr. Harry Mosher saw to it that I got what I needed.”

Mosher, a beloved chemistry professor and mentor of many, helped Althouse secure the funding he needed to complete his studies. The chemist clearly saw potential in the young man—and it turns out, Mosher was right. About a decade after earning his PhD in organic chemistry, Vic founded Vichem Corporation, a highly successful semiconductor supply company that he ran with his wife, Sue, from the early 1970s to the late 1990s.

Along the way, the couple became staunch supporters of the university, making annual gifts for many years. In 1998, they established the Althouse Family Stanford Graduate Fellowship.
Fund in gratitude for the help that Vic had received as a graduate student 40 years before. Then in 2011, they remembered the university in their estate plans by arranging for a portion of their estate to fund a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust. The Althouses chose the unitrust for several reasons: It provides for their daughter and two sons during their lifetimes, can offer tax advantages, and ultimately benefits the university. (See “Good Counsel” column on next page for more information about unitrusts.)

“Our gift to Stanford provides greater potential and greater possibility than anything we could do on our own,” he says. “I know Stanford will do something significant in the world with our gift.”

Sue wholeheartedly agrees: “I’m all for it. Education is too important to ignore.”

How to ship all those chips?
The Althouses’ road to success may have begun with education, but it soon moved to the kitchen table. One day a friend from Hewlett-Packard told Vic that the company needed a secure device to transport silicon chips—the same chips that were turning the Santa Clara Valley known for orchards into a tech powerhouse now known as Silicon Valley.

A born problem-solver, Vic knew his way around polymers and plastics. So he experimented over the kitchen stove until he concocted a material that could protect and safely transport the fragile chips. He called it the Gel-Pak. “This is 1970, the beginning of the semiconductor industry,” he notes.

Eventually, Vic invented a device even more valuable that he dubbed the universal Vacuum Release carrier. The beauty of the carrier was that it securely held the chips for transportation and then gently released them. “It was reversible,” he says. “We patented it in 1983. That’s when the business took off.”

One million sold
In the beginning, it was a family affair: The children put labels on the boxes at night, Sue answered the phone by day, and Vic worked full-time jobs while tinkering with his inventions every chance he got. Sue still laughs when she recalls all the kitchen utensils her husband used. “I had to replace mixers, measuring cups, you name it,” she says with a smile. “Vic would say, ‘That’s OK, you can just wash it.’ No I couldn’t—not when I knew what had been in there.”

Soon, Vichem outgrew the kitchen table as the Valley’s semiconductor companies lined up to buy the device. “We sold 3,000, 4,000, 5,000 a year. HP kept buying it,” Vic recalls. “Then Intel bought the one-millionth tray.”

As the business prospered, the chemist quit his day job and traveled the world selling his invention. In 1997, the couple received an offer to buy the company and neither hesitated. As successful as Vichem was, it was time.
If you wish to provide for your children and make a significant future gift to charity, you may wonder if you must choose between the two. In fact, you can achieve both goals when your estate plan includes a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust (testamentary CRUT), such as the one planned by Sue and Vic Althouse, PhD ’61.

Creators of testamentary CRUTs have two characteristics. First, they want to leave part of their estate to create a managed income stream for one or more individuals—most commonly their children, but it may be for their spouse, another relative, or a friend. Second, they want to create a charitable legacy. Estate tax reduction or elimination is also a motive for some individuals.

A testamentary CRUT is created when a decedent’s assets pass to a trustee. The trustee generally invests the assets to maximize the total return over time and also makes annual payments to one or more beneficiaries. The amount of the annual payments will vary depending on several factors including investment performance. The trust may be designed and administered to increase the likelihood that the annual payments keep pace with, or outpace, inflation. The payments may continue for the income beneficiary’s lifetime or for a term of years, after which the trust assets pass to the charities designated by the decedent.

A testamentary CRUT is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Many people use part of their estate to make outright gifts to their children and another part to augment their children’s income with a testamentary CRUT.

A charitable remainder unitrust (simply, a CRUT) also can be created during your lifetime. This type of CRUT provides an income stream either for you or for others and entitles you to a charitable income tax deduction. When appreciated assets are used to fund a CRUT, the trustee generally pays no tax on the capital gain at the time the assets are sold. This preservation of capital in the form of tax savings allows the trustee to produce a larger income stream for you or other beneficiary(ies) than would otherwise be possible if the assets were sold outside of the trust. Stanford can serve as trustee of CRUTs created during the donor’s lifetime and testamentary CRUTs.

Stanford’s charitable trust program is one of the largest among all U.S. colleges and universities. Our dedicated group of professionals can help you learn more about the different types of charitable trusts and options for unitrusts managed by Stanford, such as investing with the university’s endowment.

“It is surprising, and I guess gratifying, that essentially all of the products we developed are still in existence and sold today, several decades after they were invented,” Vic says. “I had fun while it lasted. There’s nothing like owning your own business.”

Now, he and Sue are very pleased to provide support to the place that took a chance on a young man seeking to improve himself—and changed the course of his life.

It’s fitting, he says, to give to Stanford after Stanford gave so much to him.

“I feel real gratitude to Stanford for giving me the opportunity to go back to school. They made it happen,” Vic says. “Establishing a trust here feels right.”
To all those who have chosen to include Stanford in their estate plans. Your gift will help sustain the university for generations to come.

Remember Stanford

☐ Please send me information about:
  ☐ Making a bequest to Stanford.
  ☐ Making a life income gift (e.g., charitable remainder unitrust, charitable gift annuity) to Stanford.
  ☐ Making a gift of real estate to Stanford.

☐ I have remembered Stanford in my estate plans as follows:
  ☐ I/we have named Stanford University as a beneficiary of a will or living trust.
  ☐ I/we have named Stanford University as a beneficiary in one or more of the following:
    ☐ IRA, pension, or other retirement account (e.g., 401(k) or 403(b) plans)
    ☐ Charitable remainder trust
    ☐ Life insurance policy
    ☐ Other (please specify): __________________________

  Approximate amount and purpose of gift (optional): __________________________

☐ I have remembered Stanford in my estate plans as described above, and I wish to join the Founding Grant Society. I understand gifts to Stanford that are highly contingent in nature (i.e., where it is unlikely that the university will ever actually receive anything) do not qualify for membership in the Founding Grant Society.

Recognition options for the Founding Grant Society:
  ☐ Please list my/our name(s) in Founding Grant Society honor roll listings as shown below.
  ☐ Please do not include my/our name(s) in Founding Grant Society honor roll listings.

Signed

NAME(S) (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE

EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

Office of Planned Giving
650.725.4358
Fax 650.723.6570
rememberstanford@stanford.edu
plannedgiving.stanford.edu

Thank you to all those who have chosen to include Stanford in their estate plans. Your gift will help sustain the university for generations to come.
Create Your Legacy at Stanford

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Stanford is grateful to the generous alumni and friends who have remembered the university in their estate plans. The following is a sampling of recent estate gifts:

**William Haye Allen**, ’48, LLB ’56, named Stanford as a beneficiary of his individual retirement account, resulting in a gift of $100,000 for Stanford Law School.

**Annette Bertram**, a friend of the university, bequeathed a gift of $200,000 to Stanford Health Care, formerly known as Stanford Hospital and Clinics.


**Grace Brothers, ’46**, left a portion of her estate totaling $1.2 million to establish The Grace Brothers Endowed English Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships to English majors. The university also will receive additional funds originating from her estate to establish a second undergraduate scholarship fund at Stanford.

**Genevieve Hicks Coonly, ’46**, and her late husband, **William Coonly**, named Stanford as a beneficiary of both their trust and their charitable remainder trust. The trusts will provide $426,000 to support the School of Engineering, the School of Medicine, and the Department of Athletics.

**Sally Ann Foote, ’50**, left a portion of her estate, totaling more than $12 million, to be added to the Sally Ann Foote Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

**Thomas Frederic Humiston, ’32, MA ’36, PhD ’59**, left $208,000 from his trust to the Graduate School of Education. His gift will be used for scholarships for students preparing for careers in guidance and counseling.

**James Sandberg, MA ’49**, bequeathed a portion of his estate to Stanford, resulting in a gift of $151,000 for the Humanities and Sciences Fund for Graduate Education.

**Richard Mellon Scaife**, a friend of the university, gave $2 million to the Hoover Institution to be used for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.

**Cortlandt Van Rensselaer, ’44, MBA ’48**, arranged for a testamentary gift from the Van Rensselaer Family Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The university received $412,800 to support the Graduate School of Business, the School of Engineering, and The Stanford Fund.