A NEW WAY TO GIVE BACK: CHARITABLE WEDDING REGISTRIES

For the charities themselves, being given prominent billing on a couple’s wedding day, when their closest friends and family are there, can bring new donors to the cause.

Many couples have decided to begin their new journey by giving back! Technology has made it easier for couples, from millennials to older adults, to replace wedding gifts with charitable donations. A vast amount of money is spent on weddings in the United States each year and this shift could move the charitable needle in a major way.

Last year, couples spent, on average, $35,000 to cover the costs of their big day, according to the annual survey by the Knot, the wedding website, of its membership. Their guests spent, on average, $127 on a gift if they were family members and $99 if they were friends, according to an American Express survey.

Wedding planners and philanthropic advisers say the interest in including a charity on a wedding registry has paralleled the growth of internet registries. In essence, when guests can click online boxes for wine glasses, vases, china sets, silverware and silver picture frames, it is just as simple to add a link to a charity of the couple’s choice.

By establishing a donor advised fund at FJC the newlyweds can recommend a variety of charities they wish to support.

Of course, for many couples, wedding presents give them their start in life. Those sheets, plates and glasses are practical help in setting up their lives together as much as they are nice gifts. But more affluent couples who can afford to buy what they want or older couples who have already accumulated what they need often face the opposite problem: having two of everything.

While it might be easy to dismiss these charitable options as just one more request of guests who may already be spending a lot of money traveling to a wedding, the registries have the potential to be effective and to have a positive impact on a variety of causes and organizations. Additionally, those contributing to the fund may also receive a tax-deduction if the registry is under a 501(c)3 organization like FJC.

“I think there’s a growing awareness among millennials that what you do with your whole life should reflect your values,” said Melissa A. Berman, chief executive of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. “Millennials have really pushed this into the forefront.”


REMINDER:

FJC Gift Certificates are the perfect way to acknowledge a wonderful event, say thank you, and show your appreciation and affection.

An FJC Gift Certificate entitles recipients to recommend a gift to the qualified tax-exempt charity of their choice. FJC account holders may request Gift Certificates in any amount of $100 or greater. Gift Certificates are produced on elegant paper, and we can send them directly to the recipients, or donors can keep them on hand to distribute at the time of their choice for a special occasion or as a last minute gift.
The Hope Reichbach Fund commemorates the life and work of Hope Reichbach, an activist and civic leader born and raised in Brooklyn. Before she passed away in 2011, Hope worked on the campaign and in the office of Council Member Stephen Levin, and collaborated with countless non-profits, local business, and community members to make Brooklyn a better city for all.

Established in 2012, the Hope Reichbach Fund provides scholarships for students who take internships in civic leadership and community organizing. Every summer the Hope Reichbach Fund provides paid Fellowships to five exceptional college students who follow in Hope’s footsteps. They are young leaders who want to make a difference in NYC through social justice and and community organizing but cannot afford to take on unpaid internships. We match them with non-profits in Brooklyn based on their interests, give them a weekly stipend, and provide training and mentorship for NYC’s next generation of leaders.

Every year the Hope Reichbach Fund hosts a run/walk in Prospect Park in memory of Hope. The Run for Hope 5K will bring together local vendors, musicians, and members of Hope’s community to raise money and awareness for the Hope Reichbach Fund. By signing up you will directly support these Fellows and the non-profit organizations they work with this summer. Come out and enjoy a springtime run in Prospect Park for a great cause!

Where: Bartel-Pritchard Square, Prospect Park, Brooklyn
When: Sunday, April 23rd, 9am
Sign Up or Donate: www.hopeforbrooklyn.com

The Hope Reichbach Fund is a participant in FJC’s Fiscal Sponsorship Program. For more information about The Hope Reichbach Fund, please visit: www.hopeforbrooklyn.com/

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