

Growing a Legacy

Gardening for the Greater Good



Spring 2026

A Living Legacy of Stewardship

For Lloyd and Thacher Brown, supporting the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) is more than an act of generosity—it's a family tradition, a shared passion, and a long-term investment in the future of Philadelphia's landscapes and communities.

For 34 consecutive years, the Browns have stood by PHS with unwavering support, making them some of the organization's most dedicated donors.

As proud members of the 1827 Society President's Circle—and former PHS Board members—Lloyd and Thacher have long been deeply involved in shaping the organization's future.

"The mission is what keeps us coming back," they share. For the Browns, PHS embodies everything they value: environmental stewardship, community connection, and the power of green spaces to transform lives.

This belief spans generations. Mr. Brown's mother was deeply involved with PHS, planting seeds of engagement that continue to flourish today. Their family's story mirrors the work of PHS itself: enduring, evolving, and grounded in gardening for the greater good. Lloyd and Thacher are especially passionate about open spaces filled with native plants and native tree planting, work they see as essential to the city's ecological and social health.

They have been thrilled to witness PHS's growing impact firsthand, including a visit

to Nicetown, a neighborhood in North Philadelphia, with PHS President Matt Rader, where they saw how horticulture, partnerships, and community leadership converge to create meaningful neighborhood change. "In a world where so much feels uncertain," they say, "we need PHS—everything it does for the city and for individuals across the Philadelphia region."



*Lloyd and
Thacher Brown*

For those considering a planned gift but unsure where to begin, the Browns offer practical encouragement.

"If you don't need your required annual minimum distribution from your IRA for living expenses, it makes great sense to use those funds for your charitable gifts," they note. (See more about this on Page 4).

continued on Page 2

In this issue

-  Note From the President
-  A Fresh Start for Spring:
Don't Forget Your Will
-  Giving Through Your IRA



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This spring, the extraordinary success of the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, “Rooted: Origins of American Gardening,” reminded us that every garden carries a story and every season offers an opportunity to shape what comes next. Inspired by the traditions, memories, and cultural roots that connect us through plants, this year’s Show celebrated the enduring role gardening plays in our lives while looking ahead to the future we are building together.

At the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, that spirit of being rooted in purpose guides our work every day. Across the region, we partner with communities to create and care for green spaces that improve health, strengthen neighborhoods, and bring people together.

The Flower Show is a powerful expression of what is possible, but its impact extends far beyond those remarkable few days. It helps sustain the public gardens, neighborhood greening, workforce development, and educational programs that serve our region throughout the year.

This work depends on long-term stewardship. Support that is planned with intention allows us to care not only for today’s landscapes but for the generations that will inherit them.

As you consider your own plans for the future, I hope you will think about the role PHS might play in the legacy you choose to leave. A planned gift is one meaningful way to help ensure that this work continues to flourish for years to come.

Thank you for helping create a greener, healthier region for all of us.

Sincerely,

Matt Rader
President, Pennsylvania
Horticultural Society

A Living Legacy ...

continued from Page 1

“Furthermore, if there are funds remaining in my IRA after my wife and I are gone, giving any remaining IRA assets to PHS through a beneficiary designation is a very tax-efficient way to remember a great organization.”

The mission is what keeps us coming back to PHS. In a time when so much feels uncertain, we trust the current leadership to use our gifts wisely—for the city and for the people who call this region home.

— Lloyd and Thacher Brown

Their advice reflects what their own philanthropy clearly demonstrates: Careful planning can boost generosity, align giving with values, and ensure meaningful work persists into the future.

Through decades of commitment, visionary leadership, and family legacy, Lloyd and Thacher Brown have helped cultivate more than gardens—they’ve helped grow an enduring future for PHS and the communities it serves.

A Fresh Start for Spring: Don't Forget Your Will

Spring has a way of calling us back to what matters. Closets are cleared, garages reorganized, and long-postponed projects finally get attention. It's a season of renewal—a chance to take stock and make space for what's next.

As you move through your spring cleaning checklist this year, there's one important task that's easy to overlook: reviewing your will.

Like any part of your life, your plans and priorities may change over time. A will you created years ago may no longer reflect your current wishes, relationships, or the causes you care most about. Changes in family circumstances, financial situations, or even your passions—like a growing connection to the work of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society—can all be reasons to revisit your plans.

Keeping your will up to date is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to ensure your intentions are honored. It provides clarity for your loved ones and helps avoid unnecessary complications

during an already difficult time. Just as importantly, it allows you to be intentional about the legacy you want to leave behind.

For many, that legacy includes supporting organizations that bring beauty, sustainability, and community to life. Through gardens, greening initiatives, and educational programs, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society continues to cultivate healthier neighborhoods and deep social connections and to drive positive social and environmental change.

Including PHS in your estate plans—whether through a bequest or another gift—ensures this work continues to flourish for generations to come.

Spring cleaning isn't just about what you clear out—it's about what you make room for. By taking a little time to review your will, you create space for peace of mind today and a lasting impact tomorrow.

As always, we encourage you to consult with your legal and financial advisors when reviewing or updating your estate plans.



Giving Through Your IRA

If you are age 70½ or older, you can support PHS through a tax-efficient gift from your IRA. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows you to give directly from your IRA—up to \$111,000 in 2026 (\$222,000 for married couples with separate IRAs).

Unlike typical IRA withdrawals, these gifts are not included in your taxable income, whether or not you itemize deductions. If you are age 73 or older, your QCDs can also count toward your required minimum distribution.

An IRA QCD is a simple way to reduce taxes while helping PHS cultivate greener communities and healthier neighborhoods.

A future gift

Keep in mind, you can also use your IRA to leave a legacy. It's as simple as naming a charity, like PHS, a beneficiary of all or a portion of what remains in your IRA or other retirement plan after your lifetime. Since retirement plan assets are among the most heavily taxed if left to family members, this can be a tax-efficient way to give.

Learn more

As always, consult your financial or tax advisor to determine what's best for you. If we can provide more information or answer any questions about these and other ways to give, please return the enclosed card or contact us.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

Residual Gift Language

A residual bequest comes to us after your estate expenses and specific bequests are paid:

I give and devise to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (tax ID #23-1352265), located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, all (or state a percentage) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Specific Gift Language

Naming The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society as a beneficiary of a specific amount from your estate is easy:

I give and devise to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (tax ID #23-1352265), located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the sum of \$_____ (or asset) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Contingent Gift Language

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society or its affiliates can be named as a contingent beneficiary in your will or personal trust for situations where one or more of your specific bequests cannot be fulfilled:

If (insert name) is not living at the time of my demise, I give and devise to The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (tax ID #23-1352265), located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the sum of \$_____ (or all or a percentage of the residue of my estate) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).



Contact us

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Maddie Knauss

Associate Director of Leadership
& Planned Giving

215.988.1622

[PHSonline.giftplan.info](https://phsonline.giftplan.info)



PHS

PENNSYLVANIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY®