RESNA
Founders Fund Campaign
Honoring the past... investing in the future
**WHAT will my donation accomplish?**

The main purpose of the RESNA Founders Fund is to financially enable RESNA to continue its leadership role, focusing on support of new initiatives that will help RESNA address the challenges of today and tomorrow in the field of rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology. In general, the funds will be used to host consensus-building meetings(s), widely communicate its mission to members and others, provide seed-funding for innovative activities and establish programs (eg. scholarships) that will encourage students to pursue a career in the field of rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology. Donations will not be used to support the daily operations of RESNA.

**WHY should I make a gift to the RFF?**

Perhaps you are a retired professional and are having a growing feeling that its time to give back to the organization that provided: an invaluable forum for your career development, or fostered a network of career-long colleagues, or provided an outlet for your research activities, or an opportunity to share your clinical expertise through instructional course presentations, or receive an AT credential in your chosen specialty. Possibly you are a past or current owner of an assistive technology company for which RESNA has provided a venue in which to exhibit your products or seek feedback from the trend-setters in the field on your prototype designs, or were able to benefit from participation in industry standards development. Or maybe you are at mid-career and you want to make sure RESNA remains a strong leader in the field and grows to better serve your needs in the future.

Whatever your reason may be, RESNA has now created a structured pathway by which you can invest in a legacy that will focus on building for tomorrow, so that the field of assistive technology can better serve the needs of persons with disabilities.

**HOW will the fund be managed?**

At its annual meeting in June, 2010, the RESNA Board approved the formation of the RESNA Development Board (DB). This is a semi-autonomous Board that has as its sole purpose the effective management of all funds and programs resulting from grants or donor gifts to RESNA. This initiative requires a revision to RESNA’s Bylaws that will specify the explicit purpose of the DB, its Board structure and its mandate to establish and manage programs like the Founders Fund. Briefly, the Development Board will consist of nine voting members, three of whom must be RESNA Fellows, two current RESNA Board executives, and the remainder being selected to add expertise in areas such as post graduate education, fund raising, and financial investment. The disbursement of all revenues generated through the Development Board will be at the sole discretion of the DB.

**WHAT are my gifting options?**

The Development Board has two vehicles or options for gifting. The first is a cash or other asset donation that meets the IRS tax deduction requirements of gifting to any 501(c) organization. The second option is planned or sometimes termed “creative” gifting. In this case individual gifting plans (usually longer term) are worked out, with the assistance of a financial planner, to the benefit of both the donor and RESNA. Examples of the latter option are: a gift from a will or trust, naming RESNA as a beneficiary of a portion of your IRA retirement plan, gifting of appreciated securities, beneficiary of an insurance policy, or possibly an income plan like a charitable remainder trust.

An information packet that explains the options in more detail can be sent at your request, or you can download it from RESNA’s web site at www.resna.org.

**WHAT if I am not a US resident?**

Of course we would welcome your gift, but unfortunately charitable tax deductions to the RFF are limited to U.S. residents. You may be able to use your own tax laws to deduct your giving based on a letter of donation from RESNA. We are exploring other means to “level the field” for non-resident donors and we encourage you to talk with us.

**HOW can I make a donation now or in the future?**

Simply contact the RESNA office at (703) 524-6686, or send an email to nhall@resna.org and indicate that you want to make a donation or asset gift to the RESNA Founders Fund. You will be contacted by a gifting specialist to help you decide on a method that takes maximum advantage of IRS laws and your particular gifting goals.

We hope you will seriously consider joining us and other members of the RFF Steering Committee in helping RESNA launch this important new initiative.

Sincerely,
Douglas Hobson
James Reswick
RESNA Founders
You are the recipient of this communication because at sometime in your career, or the life of your company, RESNA probably played a significant role. Comparatively speaking, RESNA is a young professional society having celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009. Looking back, maybe you were even part of the "tag-tag" group of assistive technology enthusiasts that came together in Atlanta in 1979 to endorse RESNA’s founding, or attended the first RESNA annual conference in Toronto in 1980. To remember our beginnings and recognize the recent passing of Tony Starus, the "sparkplug" that made our founding a reality in 1979, the RESNA Board established the RESNA Founders Fund (RFF). The four other RESNA founders were Colin McLaurin, Joseph Traub, Jim Reswick and Douglas Hobson. To honor the Founders and create a resource that will perpetuate the founding vision, RESNA, for the first time is asking its membership and others for financial support.

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