

The Many Faces of Giving



While we always welcome annual contributions for our general operating fund, we recognize that folks sometimes like to designate dollars for a special purpose. For example, some Sponsors support our internship program while others choose to endow or support a “Center,” a specific area of scholarly research. Some Sponsors opt for underwriting conferences and events while others have designated funds for translating classic books on freedom and liberty.

The Bastiat Scholarship Fund, a fund providing scholarships to students attending Cato University, represents yet another unique giving opportunity. Since we don’t have the space to describe all of these special gifts in detail, we will use the Bastiat Scholarship Fund as an example of the “many faces of giving.”

Cato’s goal is always to draw a large and broad group of participants to Cato University, a weeklong, intensive, interdisciplinary educational event. Lecturers and participants readily come from around the globe; indeed, several participants attend year after year. The problem is that students, who can rarely come up with tuition dollars, desperately need exposure to the basics of liberty, limited government, and the rule of law. We all know that most of our U.S. schools pay scant attention to history or civics these days. And many of those educated abroad come from cultures where liberty is an alien concept.

Let me talk a little more about Cato University so you can understand the punch of this veritable libertarian happening. Participants receive suggested advance readings so that they can arrive as well prepared as possible. Each year’s conference is organized around a different theme. Undoubtedly, the fact that each conference has a unique and distinct flavor goes a long way toward explaining repeat attendees. Recent themes have included freedom, liberty, property rights, and economics. World-class lecturers offer organized, on-point information and each lecture is followed by an

ample discussion period. Last but not least, the logistics of Cato University are admirable, featuring Swiss punctuality and beautiful surroundings. The last few conferences have been held at the Rancho Bernardo Inn in San Diego.

In July 2008, 49 students from eleven countries, including Poland, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Belarus, and Russia, joined Cato University. As Adina Cappell, a 2008 scholarship recipient from the U.S., said in a thank you letter:

My experiences at Cato University, from the lectures, reading materials, and the night-time chats with fellow students, provided me with the inspiration to solidify my libertarian viewpoints. I now hope to include advocacy for individual freedom as an integral component of my life’s work.

If you have not already done so, you should attend yourself. Your investment of time and money will pay off. And please consider making a contribution to Cato University’s Bastiat Scholarship Fund or to another program of your choice. Supporting scholarships, Centers, or translation costs are examples we’ve already mentioned, but the possibilities are really as broad as Cato’s activities.

If you need more information, please contact **Gayllis Ward at gward@cato.org or 202.218.4631**. Please also feel free to contact Gayllis with any questions about estate and gift planning.

The IRA Charitable Rollover is Back!

In our last issue we discussed the possibility that Congress might extend, for 2008 and 2009, the popular rollover. The provision allows individuals 70½ and older to make gifts of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to charity. As we go to press, we can report that the IRA rollover was part of the grab bag of tax goodies attached to the bailout bill that has now been signed into law. So it’s back!