



GREENLEGACY

Spring 2019

Sharing Our Hopes for a Green and Peaceful Future

By Andrea Kebrdle

Sister Janet Rectenwald, SFCC (Sisters for Christian Community), was born in Pittsburgh in 1939. As a very small child, her favorite place to be was in her backyard: sitting in the mulberry tree eating berries, making jewelry from the buckeye trees, dolls from hollyhock flowers, and working in the garden with her dad.

“Mother Nature provided so many wonderful things to nourish my creativity. Every day seemed to bring new discoveries. There were also funerals for small birds and critters that had died. I thought everyone loved being in nature as much as I did. No doubt my mom’s daily command to ‘Go outside and play!’ opened my being to see, to listen, to touch, to be awed by God’s great gifts and to experience the oneness of all of creation,” Sister Janet remembers.

As a child, Sister Janet never questioned why an orange haze filled the sky at night, or why Pittsburgh was called the “City of Smoke.” In her teens, she learned of foul conditions plaguing the city for over a century. This was a turning point in her awareness. She is so proud to see Pittsburgh now transformed into a Hub for Technology & Research, due to positive environmental changes.



Sister Janet and Chuff-Chuff, a Bengal mix tiger, enjoy some leisure time together at Elmira’s Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sister Janet has been part of Greenpeace for so long, she can’t recall how she became involved. She does know that upon encountering Greenpeace, she “mentally jumped aboard the Rainbow Warrior to ride through the storms with some of the world’s best environmental protectors.”

Sharing her love for the animals, she volunteers her time at Elmira’s Wildlife Sanctuary in Wimauma, Florida. “It is a great place to volunteer or visit. It is a forever home for all the animals that come

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Janet spends time with her sweet friend, Tiki the lemur.



Young tiger in Tadoba reserve in India.

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Sharing Our Hopes for a Green and Peaceful Future (cont.)

there,” Sister Janet says. “Our mission is to keep our animals safe, happy, and loved. It is wonderful to see the trust that builds with the animals and their caretakers.”

Sister Janet also remembers her great-grandfather, a veterinarian who cared for horses and exotic animals. “His DNA is definitely a part of who I am. I believe the volunteer work I do at Elmira’s and the love I have for the animals is because of him,” she recalls.

“We only have one planet we call home where billions of humans, plants, animals share Her life-giving resources,” Sister Janet says. “The abuse our planet has suffered is taking an enormous toll on Her well-being as science dictates. Science alone won’t save the Earth. Present day disasters can be avoided only if we work together.”



Copper, a timber wolf, is one of many animals that Sister Janet helps care for.

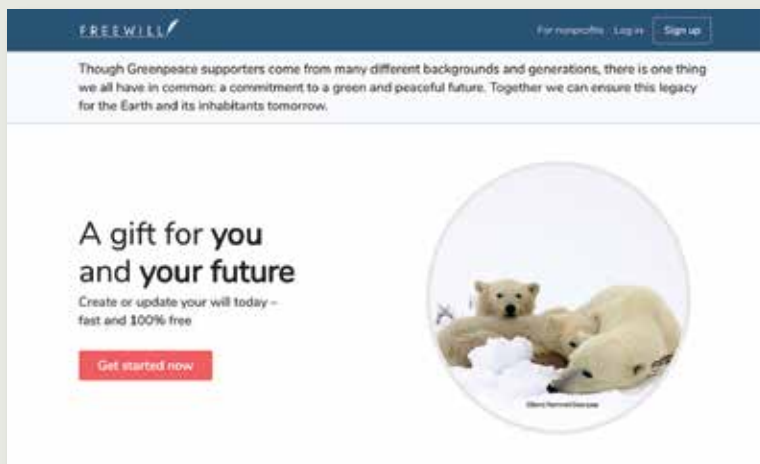
Sister Janet says this is why she embraces and supports Greenpeace. “My political activism has been shaped by Greenpeace’s ideals and campaigns. I’ve been arrested in acts of civil disobedience and believed in the power of the protest, largely because of Greenpeace,” states Sister Janet. “I am truly grateful to all who work for Greenpeace, often courageously risking their lives as they become the Davids facing the Goliaths of greed. When the *Rainbow Warrior*, the *Arctic Sunrise*, and the other ships set out to sea, I sail with them with my prayers, hopes, and dreams for a world at peace.”

Andrea Kebrdle is a Legacy Giving Officer at Greenpeace.

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A screenshot of the FreeWill website. At the top, the FreeWill logo is on the left, and "For nonprofits Log in Sign up" is on the right. Below the logo, a paragraph reads: "Though Greenpeace supporters come from many different backgrounds and generations, there is one thing we all have in common: a commitment to a green and peaceful future. Together we can ensure this legacy for the Earth and its inhabitants tomorrow." The main content area features the text "A gift for you and your future" in a large font, followed by "Create or update your will today - fast and 100% free". Below this is a red button that says "Get started now". To the right of the text is a circular image of two polar bears resting on a snowy surface.

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For questions or more information, please contact Corrine Barr at 1-800-328-0678, corrine.barr@greenpeace.org or see our website at greenpeacefund.org.

Don't Let the IRS Tax Your IRA

By Corrine Barr

As you may know, the new tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction while eliminating or reducing many itemized deductions. The good news is, unlike most charitable gifts where the tax benefit depends on being able to itemize deductions, a charitable IRA rollover offers the same tax benefits whether or not you itemize. Best of all, donations from your IRA “count” toward your required minimum distribution — great news if you don’t need your IRA for income right now, but are forced to take it because of your age.

Important things to keep in mind:

- Individuals must be at least age 70½ on the date of the gift.
- Gifts can come only from IRAs, not 401(k) s or other retirement accounts.
- A maximum of \$100,000 may be given annually.
- The transfer must come directly from the IRA custodian.
- Can be made only to public charities like Greenpeace Fund, not to private foundations or donor advised funds.



A young loggerhead sea turtle photographed near Panama City, Florida.

If you are able to write checks from your IRA account, it’s important to mail those at least several weeks before the end of the year in order to qualify for the charitable distribution. Unlike other checks for charitable gifts, the date of the gift for IRA donations is when the funds are actually transferred by your IRA administrator not the date of the postmark when you mail the check.

Would you like to make a gift to Greenpeace in your will? Please contact me for details! Or check out our new FreeWill service for an easy way to create your legacy for the future of the planet.

Corrine Barr is Director of Gift Planning.

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Tree kangaroos live in lowland and mountainous rainforests in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the far north of Queensland, Australia.