Couple’s legacy will include caring for kids who need us most

A question from a fellow airline passenger 20 years ago changed Mike Shydlowski’s life.

“What are you doing,” the man asked, “to give back to the community?” Shydlowski, a chemical company executive, paused, said to himself, “Right now, not much.” The passenger turned out to be a Boys & Girls Clubs executive who invited Shydlowski to tour a Club.

He took the tour and was hooked. Shydlowski, now retired, and his wife Marsha became fierce advocates for the kids who need us most. They have pledged to help coming generations by being among the first to join Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio’s Great Futures Society, a group of supporters who have included the Clubs in their wills and estate plans.

“This is important because we believe in Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio and want its good work to continue long after we are gone,” Marsha says. “We want to be able to help even more kids.”

Mike says, “Think about what you want to leave as a legacy. What if you can do something after you pass, that your resources can help kids years from now, beyond your time on earth?”

The Shydlowskis have told their two children and three grandchildren they are including BGC in their will. “We have been generous in helping our kids and grandkids, and they are well aware of it,” Mike says. “We figure there may be people who may need the money even more. We’re very comfortable with that.”