



Jean E. Johnson '65 MSN, PhD, is considered by many to be the quintessential nurse researcher and the progenitor of modern nursing research. Her research findings have

dramatically improved patient care. Dr. Johnson has documented that patients do best when they understand their treatment, and when the information they receive from health care providers is presented in clear, structured, concrete terms, and not emotion-laden. Dr. Johnson has played a leadership role in shaping the nation's health care by serving on numerous research and advisory committees for the National Institute of Health, the Institute of Medicine, the American Cancer Society, the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, and the American Nurses Association's Council for Nurse Researchers. She has received numerous recognitions and awards, including YSN's Distinguished Alumna Award in 1980, and was recognized as a Living Legend of the American Academy of Nursing.

Why I Give to YSN

BY STEVEN SCARPA

Jean E. Johnson '65 MSN, PH.D, FAAN

Jean Johnson '65, would love to say that she knew nursing was going to be her lifelong career but, alas, she cannot.

When she was an undergraduate at Kansas State University—a farm girl, by her own description—she had to decide between majoring in home economics by itself or home economics and nursing. The decision was tough, so she flipped a coin. Nursing was the answer. “It was purely by accident, or by luck, I should say,” Johnson said.

Luckily for the nursing profession—and Yale University School of Nursing—that coin fell the right way.

Looking back on a long career, Johnson thought so well of her Yale experience that she has included YSN in her estate plans.

“I have made this gift to Yale University School of Nursing in gratitude for my experiences there, which opened a whole new world to me. I discovered research in nursing at Yale and I knew that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my career. I hope my gift will help some students to find that research is as exciting and rewarding as I have found,” she commented.

Johnson's gift will be well spent, said Dean Margaret Grey.

“Gifts in support of research at YSN assist intramural grants, student research, and doctoral students. Faculty intramural grants have provided critical funding for innovative research in areas of clinical practice, health care policy, and educational innovation. Funds to support student research will help defray costs incurred by our students in completing their master's praxis or doctoral dissertations,” Grey said.

Things have come a long way from Johnson's early days in nursing. She is known for her work as one of the first to conduct modern nursing research.

“I soon recognized in my career that we didn't have the knowledge base to underpin the practice of nursing,” she said.

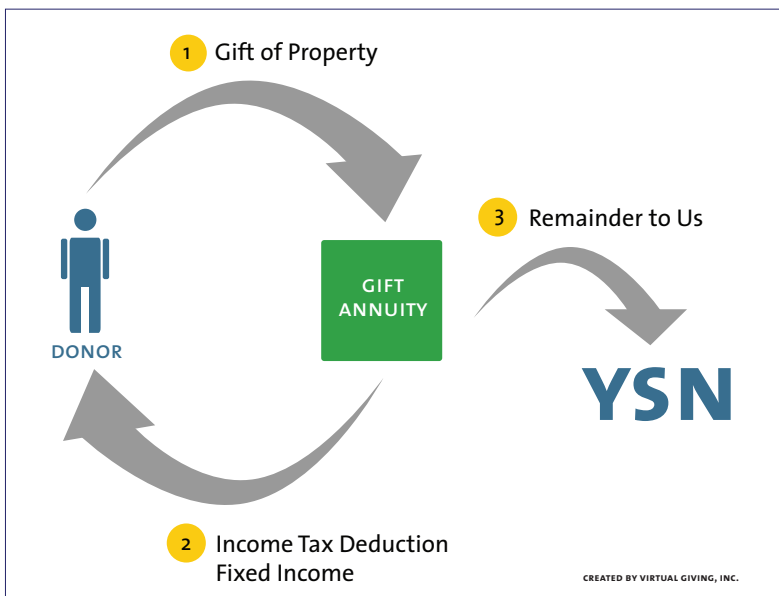
It was at the Yale University School of Nursing, where she received a master's in nursing degree in 1965, that Johnson made what she believes was the biggest contribution of her illustrious career. It was an act that was, at its heart, bred from a mix of humanity and science.

When Johnson began her research, medical providers did not provide patients with information about what to expect during procedures or often even about their illness—it was simply not done. Johnson's research showed that if you informed patients of what to expect during a medical procedure in concrete terms, those procedures would go much more smoothly. In addition, patients recovered more rapidly as a result of the treatment. “Now it is simply expected that you would explain to a patient what they would see, hear, and feel during a procedure, surgery, and

treatments for cancer,” Johnson said.

Johnson's continued support of YSN is a result of its history of excellence as a teaching and research institution. “The Yale University School of Nursing has always been a leader in nursing research. I was greatly influenced by that,” she said. “It opened up a world to me that I didn't know existed.”

For more information about making a planned gift to YSN, contact Lisa M. Hottin at 203.785.7920 or lisa.hottin@yale.edu



Jean Johnson has included YSN in her estate plans by creating a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

Of all the gifts that “pay you back,” the CGA is the simplest, most affordable, and most popular.

You make a gift to YSN and in return, Yale agrees to make fixed payments to you for life.