



LIVING WATER

A Quarterly Newsletter from WaterStone

Not On the Sidelines

How WaterStone supports major victories in the Supreme Court

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Photo of Coach Joe Kennedy

Leadership

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About

WaterStone is a Christian foundation that comes alongside givers, advisors and ministries to provide trusted counsel and innovative giving strategies. Since 1980, we have assisted our clients in developing comprehensive plans for sharing their resources with ministries and organizations to fulfill their charitable intent.

Our expertise is working with business owners and stewards of family wealth to unlock the giving potential of their non-cash assets like real estate, business interests, oil and gas and agricultural commodities. Through WaterStone, families can multiply their giving impact for the Kingdom, minimize taxes and heighten the joy of generosity.

Learn More

Visit WaterStone.org or

By the Numbers

\$900 MILLION
Assets Under Management

\$900 MILLION+
Complex Asset Contributions

\$1.7 BILLION
in Contributions

7,500+
Charities Supported

\$2 MILLION+
Weekly in Grants

\$900 MILLION+
Given in Grants

WATERSTONE



A Multi-Generational Legacy of Giving

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”
- Proverbs 22:6

A generous heart doesn't appear overnight. It's formed over the course of a lifetime, and WaterStone donors have access to a tool to help their kids and grandkids do just that.

When you set up a WaterStone Giving Fund, you have the ability to set aside a certain amount for your kids and grandkids to distribute.

WaterStone donors Diane and Bill Payne have been married 63 years and have four children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Their generosity is informed by their Christian faith, and they wanted to encourage their children to be cheerful givers as well.

“When we sold our company, we established a family foundation and began an annual charitable review in which

we decided who and how much to give to,” they said. “We are both committed Christians, and several years ago, we decided to encourage our kids to become thoughtful and regular givers.”

They contacted WaterStone and set up a fixed annual amount that each sibling would be able to give to a charity or charities of their choice.

“So far, it is working very well! Our kids contact WaterStone when they decide to whom to give, and WaterStone handles it from there. With Waterstone's help, we are able to effectively and efficiently execute and administrate this plan,” they said.

WaterStone donors like Diane and Bill are committed to a multi-generational legacy of giving. Their kids and grandkids will grow up knowing what it means to help those in need, and we're proud to be a part of forming those generous hearts.

Not On the Sidelines

HOW WATERSTONE SUPPORTS MAJOR VICTORIES



Joe Kennedy never intended to be a champion of religious liberty. When the retired Marine joined the coaching staff for the Bremerton High School (BHS) varsity football team, he made a commitment to thank God after each game for what the players had accomplished and for the opportunity to invest in their lives.

When he began his quiet, post-game prayers in 2008, he usually prayed by himself.

His players soon noticed this simple act of worship, and some of them asked to join him. He never required them to pray, but for the next seven years, spectators could find Joe and several young men kneeling after each game in quiet thanksgiving for the opportunity to play football.

Then, in 2015, an employee of another Washington State high school complained to the BHS principal about Joe's tradition. The school restricted Kennedy's prayers to take place after everyone had left the stadium, and later barred students from participating altogether.

But Joe had made a commitment to God. He refused to let the school dictate his religious beliefs, and he continued offering his silent prayers at the 50-yard line at the conclusion of each game.

Like the prophet Daniel in the Old Testament, Joe was quickly punished for his faithful prayer. He was placed on administrative leave and suspended from participating in any football activities until he affirmed "his intention to comply with the District's directives."

Fortunately, thanks in part to the generosity of WaterStone partners, that's not where the story ends. Joe secured representation from First Liberty, a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to defending religious liberty for all Americans. Their donors allow them to offer legal services free of charge, and that's exactly what they did for Joe.

Joe appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and he stopped by the WaterStone offices before the justices handed down their final decision.



\$

SINCE **2007** GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$2,371,844**

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SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$ 4 0 9 , 8 5 0**



\$

SINCE **2008** GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$5,925,060**

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SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$ 1 8 9 , 5 5 0**



\$

SINCE **2010** GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$2,100,150**

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SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR GRANTS FROM WATERSTONE HAVE TOTALED **\$ 1 8 3 , 5 0 0**

He's never been hesitant to express gratitude—that's where this story began, after all—and he honored us with his thanks for the many generous donors who make our giving possible.

On June 27, 2022, seven years after Joe took his stand, the justices ruled 6-3 that the school's actions were unconstitutional and violated his First Amendment rights.

First Liberty isn't the only defender of religious freedom and traditional values that Watersone supports. We've given millions of dollars to Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and the Family Research Council (FRC) over the last 15 years. Much like First Liberty, ADF offers free legal counsel to defendants who have had their constitutional rights violated. They were instrumental in winning the repeal of Roe v. Wade, and they've defended cases involving parental rights, free speech, and traditional marriage.

These organizations need all the help they can get. The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified ADF and FRC as "hate groups" for their orthodox Christian views, placing them alongside actual hate groups like the Klu Klux Klan. This kind of slanderous attack is exactly why ADF and other organizations need our support and how we know they're doing good work.

Doing Our Homework

If you're considering a charitable donation, you want to make sure that your money is going to a reputable organization that aligns with your values. WaterStone's due diligence process is designed to help make sure your gift never supports causes that contradict our Statement of Faith.

When planning a contribution to a nonprofit organization, WaterStone's team checks to verify three key points: First, we assess whether the organization's nonprofit status is current. Secondly, we determine whether the organization is in compliance with the IRS, and lastly, whether the organization's mission statement contradicts our statement of faith. If an organization hasn't published a mission statement, we contact them directly.

Further Steps to Determine Fiscal Responsibility

We're dedicated to encouraging wise financial stewardship. In that vein, some donors opt to take extra steps to

assess a nonprofit organization's financial stewardship on their own. While WaterStone is unable to directly "audit" every nonprofit organization, there are great resources available to help donors who wish to do so. Here is what we would suggest:

- Using a tool like GuideStar or Charity Navigator, look at how the nonprofit allocates their budget.
- If the organization is a church, you will likely need to contact them directly for budget information.
- Consider how much the organization spends on marketing and fundraising versus its core programs.
- Does the organization provide numbers or evidence of its impact?

Our donors trust us with an important responsibility: to fulfill Christ's call to give generously to those less fortunate and in ways that advance His Kingdom. This rigorous due diligence process is designed to help WaterStone donors do just that.

Working with WaterStone gives you the assurance that your contributions are being directed to verified nonprofits doing work that aligns with your values. When it comes to charitable giving, there's no higher peace of mind.

Giving Funds 101

A Giving Fund offers tax-free growth—which means your donation can grow and go even farther. Here's a quick overview of when to invest your WaterStone Giving Funds:

- You can open a WaterStone Giving Fund at **any dollar amount**.
- Giving Funds of less than \$25,000 are paid **an indexed money market return**.
- Donors may **invest** their Giving Fund (using WaterStone Pools) if they have a balance of more than \$25,000.
- Account holders with a balance in excess of \$200,000 in a Giving Fund may **choose their own investment advisor** to manage the account.
- Donors may determine their **Giving Funds' risk tolerance** and rebalance that with WaterStone or their investment advisor at any time.

General risk tolerance levels are:

FIXED INCOME

*ALL BONDS,
NO EQUITY*

CONSERVATIVE

25% EQUITY

MODERATE

50% EQUITY

AGGRESSIVE

75% EQUITY



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A Letter *from Ken's Desk*

Bravery. Daring. Faith. These words don't describe our culture—at least, not in a good way.

Too many Americans have succumbed to relativism and moral passivity. Even worse, too many Christians are afraid to take a stand. They're worried about being ostracized or fired from their jobs. So, they remain silent and look the other way when they see their brothers and sisters being vilified.

I'm happy to say that WaterStone, our charities, and our donors, don't fit into either of those categories. The efforts of WaterStone-supported organizations directly led to the amazing pro-life victory earned at the Supreme Court this year. They've successfully defended the right of Christians to exercise their faith in public, as well as traditional values, marriage, and family.

These organizations perfectly exemplify the convictions I outline in my new book, *A Daring Faith in a Cowardly World: Live a Life Without Waste, Regret, or Anything Unfinished*. Their



faith is daring. They're willing to stand up for truth, and they don't care what others think.

They don't care that the Southern Poverty Law Center calls them "hate groups." They don't blink when they're criticized in the media or blasted on Twitter.

Your generous support has made these victories possible, and I know I speak for all courageous Christians when I say, "Thank you."

Gratefully,
KEN HARRISON