



A Legacy from Mr. Munch & Learn

Like a lot of the folks we encounter day-to-day and in our social spheres, there's more to the genial Mr. Munch & Learn than you might know. Rudy Arena has been facilitating the OLLI, Prescott Munch & Learn classes for ... well, it's been so long, even he can't remember! "I just signed up and never kept any records," Rudy says.

It was the mid-2000's while he was serving on the OLLI curriculum committee when the person running Munch & Learn moved to Denver to be closer to family. At the time, only three or four people would show up each week. Under Rudy's management, Munch & Learn now happens six times during each of five sessions, Fall 1, Fall 2, Winter, Spring and Summer, and attendance averages 50 per class. "It's a lot of work," says the 96-year-old, "but I like it."

Yavapai College had already become something of a second home to Rudy when tragedy visited his family. His grandson, Nick – just 23-years-old – died of an overdose. He wanted to do something in his grandson's memory, something that might help people like Nick, but also benefit the community of Yavapai County. So, he walked over to the Yavapai College Foundation offices and helped craft the Rudy Arena/Nick Cain Endowed Scholarship for nursing students, with preference given to individuals intent on working in drug rehabilitation.

“At first I had been giving in a piecemeal sort of way,” he says – adding to the fund in smaller amounts as he was able. “But then I discovered I could give up to \$100,000 to charity out of my IRA each year.” The scholarship at YC was beneficiary of one of these gifts early on. “You don’t get it all,” he laughs, “I have a variety of other places I donate to regularly.”

To date, Rudy and Nick’s scholarship has been awarded to 17 nursing students at Yavapai College. It’s a bittersweet joy when he receives the scholarship winners thank you notes each year. “I’m delighted the money is being used this way,” Rudy says. “I hope this scholarship helps some along the line to stay out of drugs or someone who can help others that might be caught up in it.”

In working with Vanguard to allocate his IRA between personal income and charitable giving, he took the opportunity to make Yavapai College Foundation, and more specifically the Rudy Arena/Nick Cain Endowed Scholarship, beneficiary on the account. This act is what officially made Rudy Arena a member of the YC Foundation’s Legacy League. The account is, of course, one he intends to keep using. “If I live three more years, you won’t get anything!”

The fact that Rudy and Nick’s scholarship is an endowment means that it will go on in perpetuity, no matter if any additional gifts are made. That’s a legacy in and of itself, and frankly Mr. Munch & Learn, we’d be delighted if you stuck around another three years *or more*.