

## **Willing Peace** **by Kate Cell**

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Recently my life has undergone some upheavals that led me on a rainy autumn afternoon to my lawyer's office, drafting my will. It's an odd process to confront mortality in so direct a way and to think about what kind of care, concern, and influence I wish to project after my own life span. I had expected to find it dismal, especially on a day of such Dickensian gloom that I almost expected to hear a quill-pen scratching rather than a word processor clicking in the clerk's room next door.

To my surprise I found it tremendously hopeful to think about the people and institutions I care about. I thought of my nieces and nephews who might take a trip or pay down college loans with my legacy, about supporting the peaceful fellowship of my church, my alma mater of Macalester College, several good causes I've valued through the years, and yes, ECAAR.

Nothing would please me more than to think that ECAAR might not need my money when I die, that within my lifetime humans might find humane, loving, and peaceful ways to resolve our many conflicts. But the history of war and suffering is a long one and there will likely be much more to do. Our species may still live under the apocalyptic weight of nuclear weapons; we may still face stubborn inequality and poverty which can so easily lead to violence; we may still not be free of our own greed and grievances. And if when I die we are still struggling to make a just and peaceful world, I want ECAAR's vision and guidance to help build it.

In 1999 Robert Eisner, a founding member of ECAAR's board, left a considerable legacy to us that our Board placed in a Project Development Fund. The money must be spent to try something new, to take a risk. Over the four years since his death, these funds have seeded our important study on The Full Costs of Ballistic Missile Defense, sponsored the work of our affiliates in England, Russia, and South Africa, and jump-started our new flagship annual publication, *The ECAAR Review*. These are the recent successes of Mr. Eisner's legacy. There have been some disappointments too - some ideas we have tried that haven't yet worked out. But by leaving us this money, trusting the wisdom of our Board to manage it wisely, he has done more than perhaps anyone else to support ECAAR's growth and development as an institution serving the cause of peace. It's an honor to think that like his, my own small legacy might serve the organization in the years to come.

I hope in sharing this story that I will spur you to think about creative ways you might help further ECAAR's work. If you would like to talk with a staff member about estate planning or other donation options, please call the office at (845) 620-1542, send an email to [katecell@ecaar.org](mailto:katecell@ecaar.org) or [theaharvey@ecaar.org](mailto:theaharvey@ecaar.org), or write to the office address on the back of your newsletter. If you have already included ECAAR in your estate, could you please let us know; we would like to thank you now for helping us plan for the future.

Kate Cell is ECAAR's General Director.

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