Paul and Eleanor Chadderton, longtime philanthropic supporters of Penn State, recently established a Charitable Lead Trust (CLT) at Penn State Shenango. A CLT is a planned gift structure that provides fixed annual payments to the University for a certain number of years before distributing all assets to the donor’s designated beneficiaries at the end of the charitable term. The Chaddertons created the trust to reduce their income and estate taxes and provide for the future of both Penn State and their children.

The Chaddertons’ CLT, created through a gift of $500,000, is providing a $20,000 annuity to Penn State Shenango for ten years, which can be used at the discretion of the chancellor for the greatest needs of the campus each year. The trust’s first distribution has already provided $15,000 in scholarship support to help students with financial need attend Penn State Shenango. The remaining $5,000 was used to partially fund an inter disciplinary spring break service trip in March, which sent fourteen students to Urubamba, Peru, to help indigenous families replace their kitchens’ traditional open-pit fire with clean-burning stoves and chimneys. Here, we talk with Mr. Chadderton about the couple’s CLT and their past philanthropy.

**Why has supporting Penn State Shenango been important to you over the years?**

I was raised in Sharon, where the Shenango campus is, and it’s a small community. Sharon has lost 4,000 people in the last few years. Most of the steel mills have closed up. There are fewer jobs, but they require more training, education, computer experience. That’s a big difference in my lifetime.

So it’s wonderful to have the Shenango campus. As a father of two Penn State graduates, a business owner, and an active member of the community, I have seen firsthand the important role the University plays in our area. Kids need more education today than when I was young, and it’s only getting harder for them to find the money to afford it. Eleanor and I are trying to do whatever we can to help.

**Why did you recently choose to establish a Charitable Lead Trust at Penn State Shenango?**

I’ve always tried to lead the pack, set an example. The Charitable Lead Trust made sense to me. It allowed us flexibility: it’s going to support our local campus for a few years and then whatever is left, our kids will still get something out of that. I know I’m not going to live forever (laughs). I just want to get our estate in order and hopefully benefit future generations.

**What was your experience working with the Office of Gift Planning?**

We were really impressed by their expertise. We didn’t know that there was such a great way to meet both our goals of giving to the University and setting aside something for our kids—and the tax benefits on top of that. The staff helped us identify our options and walked us through all the details very clearly. And we’re very happy with how it turned out.

**How have your experiences as a donor made you feel about philanthropy to Penn State?**

It’s very rewarding when you hear, “If it weren’t for you, Mr. and Mrs. Chadderton, we wouldn’t be able to go to college.” It makes you feel really good to know that you are helping somebody. We’ve kept track of some of these kids [after graduation], and a lot of the students we’ve sponsored have turned into really excellent people and have really excelled. These things make us want to do a little bit more and a little bit more.