

## *Bequest Supports Farmland Preservation*

Kenneth Krysiak loved his 21-acre farm in New London Township, Pennsylvania. He devoted years to planting and replanting his 12-acre field to get just the right nutrient level in his feed hay. The lawn and pasture fields were always neatly trimmed and weed free. The mature shade trees around the house were clearly declining with age but were lovingly pruned to extend their lives.

The property was still very much on Mr. Krysiak's mind as he suffered from terminal illness. He wanted to protect his acres; he did not want his farm developed. He contacted John Goodall, the Conservancy's Western Area Manager, seeking to grant a conservation easement to the Conservancy forever restricting the property.

Mr. Krysiak learned about the Conservancy's program for preserving farmland and fully endorsed the mission. He wanted to participate, but given the severity of his illness, time was very short, too short to complete an easement. Instead, he bequeathed his property to the Brandywine Conservancy. He expected the Conservancy to keep the land or sell it, subject in either case to permanent restrictions. He wanted proceeds of any sale to fund other farmland preservation efforts.

A Declaration of Restrictive Covenants was prepared and recorded once the property was conveyed to the Conservancy. In March 2009, his property was sold, and the funds were set aside for farmland preservation consistent with his wishes.

Mr. Krysiak's bequest fills a significant need and will allow us to permanently protect some of the best farmland in the world. The list of farmers who want to work with the Conservancy to protect their land continues to grow, yet funding for such easements does not keep up with demand. We are grateful to Mr. Krysiak for his generosity and are honored to fulfill his wishes. His love for his farm will ultimately lead to the preservation of more farmland, a fitting legacy.

