

discovering

new ways to give

“The more you’re entrusted with — be it education, time, or money — the more you have to give back,” says April Delaney.

April McClain and John Delaney met and married while attending Georgetown Law School in the mid-1980s. The Delaneys established their donor advised fund in 1996, after John took his first business public. The couple wanted to use part of the proceeds to expand their charitable giving, and their tax attorney, Earl Colson, steered them to The Community Foundation. “The resources are incredible,” April says. “The staff know the organizations and have the expertise to assist you in making the impact you want to make.”

The Delaneys have three daughters, ages 5, 8 and 12. After the birth of their third daughter, April decided to be a full-time mom, but her professional expertise clearly comes into play in how she approaches her charitable giving and volunteer work. April practiced broadcast and cable law, and in the late 1990s, she had her own company providing internet access via satellite, which she sold in 2000 — the same year that John started his current business, CapitalSource, which has 20 offices nationwide, with headquarters in Chevy Chase.

Both April and John are dynamic, driven business people, so it’s not surprising that when it comes to philanthropy, they invest more than money — and they want to see results. “While certain expectations may be different since charitable organizations have different stakeholders than businesses, measuring progress is important,” John explains. April concurs, adding, “When you are giving back, over time you start to want to have a bigger impact on the community and find a more strategic way of giving.”

The Delaneys’ strategy for giving includes making gifts to the Community Fund. April, who now serves on the board of directors at The Community Foundation, is excited about energizing and galvanizing fellow donors. “When donors get together and support a common goal, we can make an incredible difference,” she says.

As parents, both April and John are particularly concerned with issues that affect children. “At this point I care about two basic areas, education and the health care needs of children,” John says. “These core issues resonate strongly with me at this stage of my life.”

April also serves on the board of Discovery Creek Children’s Museum, which she sees as an ideal intersection of her interests in environment and education. “I grew up in Idaho. In my heart, I’m a farmer’s daughter, so I’m always concerned about the environment,” she says. “I also remember the feeling of safety and security I had growing up, so I want to find ways to give children in our community the sense that the adults in their lives are looking out for them.”