

Why We Included Charitable Giving In Our Legacy Plan

The last thing parents want is for their children to resent that their parents left money to charity that might otherwise have gone to them. This letter explains why parents chose to make charitable bequests, and that they hope their children will also find joy in helping others.

Dear children,

We have been extraordinarily blessed throughout our lifetimes. We have enjoyed good health; happy, healthy children and grandchildren; a loving extended family; fulfilling careers; and financial abundance.

In addition to making small financial gifts to you throughout your lives, we have bequeathed you enough of an inheritance to provide you financial security in your retirement. With the balance of our funds, we plan to help others.

During our lives we have shared with those less fortunate and intend to continue doing so after we are gone. Our giving through our estate plan will take three forms:

1. Deposit of a set sum into each of your own donor advised funds. You may distribute funds to organizations that are meaningful to you. For those of you with your own children, the donor advised fund could provide you the opportunity to instill in them the giving habit.
2. Deposit of a set sum in our donor advised fund. Our fund will provide you the opportunity to work together by continuing our work of supporting causes within our community.
3. Gifts to a couple of organizations that have been particularly meaningful to us over many years. We will express our gratitude by leaving them an “ultimate” gift of the residual of our estate.

We may change the amounts and/or organizations, but as we write this letter, these are our intentions.

We have always felt that our ability to share with those less fortunate is a privilege and are humbled to have the opportunity. Thank you for continuing our tradition of giving. We hope you find it to be as rewarding as we have.

Love,

Mom and Dad