

## Our Obligations And Values

*Today many parents feel obligated to pass all their wealth to their children, and children feel entitled to receive all of it. This letter describes the obligations some parents feel they have to their children and the values that guided them in life and in their legacy planning.*

Dear children,

As we began to plan our legacy, we thought about what we felt we “owed” you as your parents. After much contemplation we arrived at this list.

### **When you were a small child, our obligations were to:**

- Nurture and love you.
- Provide you a safe environment (warm healthy meals, a home free of abuse, a kiss and a hug each night before we tucked you into a clean bed).
- Send you to school each morning and help you with your lessons.
- Be your primary role models.

### **When you were a young adult, our obligations were to:**

- Let you try and fail without permanent consequences.
- Help you build confidence, self-esteem, and humility.
- Educate you through high school and college.
- Model love for each other and respect for yourself and others. · Encourage you to always give your best effort.

### **Now that you are an adult, our obligations are to:**

- Provide a welcoming, loving home to which you may always return.
- Emotionally support you in your own life journey. · Pass on wisdom and advice when asked.
- Lovingly welcome your life partner into our family.
- Love and cherish your children.

Perhaps you noticed that leaving you a large financial inheritance is not on our list of obligations. That is because we have chosen to share our financial resources with you—during our lifetimes and upon our deaths—out of love and gratitude, not from a sense of obligation. We are proud of the adults you have become, each finding your own path and supporting yourselves.

The foundation of our legacy plan is made up of the core values that guide us and that we hope we instilled in you: accountability, humility, and generosity.

**Accountability:** We believe that each person is responsible for themselves and their happiness. Things happen to each one of us on our journeys and we alone choose how we respond. Ultimately, each of us is responsible for our actions.

**Humility:** Regardless of our family name, wealth, looks, skills, or intelligence, we are all creatures of God. We are all equally valuable in God's eyes. Remember to be humble at all times.

**Generosity:** We have each been blessed in many ways. Ultimately, we will be judged not by what we have accumulated but by what we have given away. We encourage you to demonstrate your gratitude for your gifts by being generous with both your time and your treasure.

It is our hope that when we are gone, we will have lived up to our obligations as parents and passed our core values on to you. Ultimately, we will measure the success of our legacy plan by whether we have accomplished the following goals.

1. We live our final years with purpose—giving and sharing with others.
2. We encourage you to be accountable for yourselves; humble and generous with those around you.
3. You receive your financial inheritance not with a sense of entitlement, but rather with a sense of stewardship.
4. We create opportunities for you to work and grow together through family meetings and charitable giving.
5. We are role models in how we have shared our wealth with those less fortunate and leave this world a better place.

Love,

Mom and Dad