

## Beneficiary Designations

### The Simplest Ways to Create a Lasting Legacy

Many people think of a will as the primary way to transfer assets after their lifetime. But some of the most powerful and flexible legacy gifts aren't included in a will at all.

Retirement plans, IRAs, life insurance, donor advised funds, and commercial annuities all pass to beneficiaries through beneficiary designation forms, not through your will. Because these designations transfer assets directly, they're a simple and effective way to make a meaningful charitable gift.

### Retirement Plans and IRAs

A gift from your retirement plan or IRA can be a **tax-wise way** to support our mission.

These accounts are often among the most heavily taxed assets when inherited by individuals. By designating a charitable organization as the beneficiary of all or part of your retirement account, you can:

- Maximize the impact of your gift
- Reduce or eliminate income taxes on these assets
- Leave other, less heavily taxed assets (such as real estate or stocks) to your loved ones

#### How to make your gift:

1. Contact your retirement plan or IRA administrator (or visit their website).
2. Complete a beneficiary designation form naming our organization and the percentage (1–100%) you'd like to give.
3. Return the form to the administrator and keep a copy for your records.

*Example:* Bobby wants to leave a \$200,000 IRA to support our mission. By naming our organization as the 100% beneficiary, we receive the full \$200,000. If he left the IRA to his brother instead, he would owe significant income taxes—reducing the gift's value.

## Life Insurance Policies

If your family's needs have changed, your **life insurance policy** can be a powerful charitable tool. By naming our organization as the beneficiary, you can make a substantial gift at a relatively low cost. And because this gift is revocable, you retain flexibility should your plans change.

### How to make your gift:

- Contact your insurance company or agent and request a beneficiary designation form (or download it online).
- Designate a percentage of your death benefit to our organization.
- Return the form and keep a copy for your records.

## Donor Advised Funds

A **donor advised fund (DAF)** is like a charitable savings account, allowing you to contribute assets, claim a charitable deduction, and recommend grants to nonprofits over time.

To continue your philanthropic legacy, you can:

- Name your loved ones as successor advisors to recommend future grants.
- Name our organization as a beneficiary of all or part of the account after your lifetime.

This simple step ensures your charitable impact extends well into the future.

## Commercial Annuities

Like retirement plans, **commercial annuities** are taxed when left to individual beneficiaries. But when left to a tax-exempt organization, 100% of the value goes to your chosen cause.

### How to make your gift:

1. Contact your insurance company or agent for a change-of-beneficiary form.
2. Decide what percentage you'd like to designate to our organization.
3. Return the form and keep a copy for your records.

## How to Get Beneficiary Forms

- **Retirement plans and IRAs:** Contact your plan administrator.
- **Life insurance:** Contact your insurance company or agent.
- **Donor advised funds:** Contact the sponsoring organization.
- **Commercial annuities:** Contact your insurance company or agent.

## Keep Your Designations Up to Date

Your beneficiary designations can be changed at any time to reflect your evolving wishes. If they're not updated regularly, your assets may not go to the people or causes you intend.

**Tip:** Review your beneficiary designations every 2–3 years, or whenever you update your estate plan. Also, let your beneficiaries know about your plans so they can claim proceeds smoothly.

## Let's Build Your Legacy Together

Designating our organization as a beneficiary of your **retirement assets, life insurance policy, donor advised fund, or annuity** is one of the simplest and most impactful ways to make a difference.

We would be honored to help you create a plan that reflects your values and supports the mission you care about.

*Contact us to start a conversation—there's no obligation.*

## Contact Us

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