

## Ways to Give

There are many ways to give through the Community Foundation.  
Here are some of the most common methods that donors choose.

### Cash

Cash is the easiest way to contribute. Donors who make gifts of cash are eligible for a charitable deduction during the year in which the gift was made.

### Appreciated Stock

Stocks may be donated to the Community Foundation as a charitable gift. Donors are eligible for a tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock. By donating appreciated stock to the Community Foundation, your clients can avoid capital gains tax that would otherwise occur at the sale of the stock.

### Personal Property

Virtually anything of value can be donated to charity. Cars, boats, artwork, jewelry, and even rare books have been used to establish philanthropic legacies. There are special rules that apply to the donation of personal property, so please discuss your clients' plans with the Community Foundation ahead of time.

### Real Estate

Residential property, commercial or industrial sites, and undeveloped land are attractive assets for charitable giving. Your client can contribute a piece of real estate, or a partial interest in a piece of real estate, to the Community Foundation. Some donors choose to contribute property while retaining the right to live there during their lifetime.

### Bequests

A charitable bequest is the most common form of planned giving. By including a charitable bequest in a will, your clients are able to make gifts that are simple and, in many cases, larger than they could make during their lifetime.

### Retirement Accounts and Life Insurance

Donors can use assets held in an individual retirement account (IRA), 401(k), 403(b) or similar account to start a fund at the Community Foundation at the time of their death. Many donors choose to donate all or part of their retirement plan since these accounts, while very attractive to defer tax during a lifetime, are the most heavily taxed assets in an estate at time of death. To make a gift using retirement assets, simply designate the Community Foundation as partial or full beneficiary. There is no cost, and the beneficiary designation can be changed at any time.

### Charitable Remainder Trusts

Charitable Remainder Trusts are used to guarantee a retirement income while making a significant charitable gift. Charitable Remainder Trusts allow your client to transfer assets to a trust, take an immediate tax deduction and receive an income stream for his or her lifetime. The amount of the deduction varies with the age of the income beneficiary(ies).

### **Charitable Gift Annuities**

Charitable Gift Annuities allow a donor to make a substantial gift to charity while retaining the right to a life income. In the case of Charitable Gift Annuities, that income is a fixed amount based on actuarial tables published by the American Council on Gift Annuities. A donor may defer receipt of the income for one or more years, which will increase the ultimate pay-out. This is known as a Deferred Gift Annuity and is often used as a supplemental retirement plan for individuals who have already contributed the maximum amount to their qualified plan.

## **Sample Language for Bequests**

Your clients can continue their charitable legacies for years to come by including a gift in their will to support the causes or organizations that are important to them. Charitable bequests are the most common form of planned giving, allowing the good names and charitable intent of donors to “live on” while providing important estate tax advantages.

### **Leaving an Estate Gift to a Fund at Community Foundation**

To establish a testamentary fund at the Community Foundation, you may contact the Foundation to pre-sign a fund agreement expressing your wishes for the use of the gift. Your estate documents should include language conveying your intent to leave a gift to this fund, such as the sample below:

“I give \_\_\_\_\_ (% of estate or lump sum gift) to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, its successors or assigns, to create the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Fund) consistent with the “Fund Agreement” previously established at the Community Foundation.”

Donors sometime prefer to have the Community Foundation’s board of directors determine how their gift can remain flexible and responsive to community needs over time. These undesignated gifts are used to meet the emerging needs of the community.

In this situation, the suggested language to be used in a will is:

“I give \_\_\_\_\_ (description of gift) to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, its successors or assigns, to be added to the Undesignated Fund For the Future to benefit communities in the region served by the Community Foundation.”