



*We work hard to make our communities wonderful places during our lifetimes. But what about after we are gone? What happens to our communities then? How can we continue to touch, enrich and improve the lives of those who come after us? Taking some time to define our values and put them into writing now will ensure that those values and wishes are carried out later – and we make a difference in the lives that follow.*



For further information,  
call the Winona Area  
LEAVE A LEGACY<sup>®</sup> program  
office at the  
Winona Community Foundation:  
**507-454-6511**

The Winona Area LEAVE A LEGACY<sup>®</sup> program is part of a state, national and international collaborative movement to educate the public and promote the idea of giving through bequests and estate plans by increasing awareness of and interest in charitable planning. This collaboration consists of professional advisors working with nonprofit organizations including social services and arts organizations, places of worship, hospitals, educational institutions and other philanthropic associations.

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*You've already made an impact on your community through your lifetime. Now you can ensure that your legacy continues – long after you're gone!*

## *The Winona Area*

### *LEAVE A LEGACY<sup>®</sup> program. . .*

invites us all to make our community a little better than when we entered it. We can do that by leaving a gift in our wills or other estate plans to the charitable organizations we have supported and by which we and our families have been supported during our lives.

### *We don't have to be wealthy*

Everyone can leave a legacy! It doesn't have to be a lot --- it doesn't have to be thousands or millions of dollars. All we need to do is name one or more charitable organizations in our wills or other estate plans and determine the gift we want to leave them. We can also name a charity as a beneficiary in our pension plans, such as our IRA or 401(k). And if we have insurance policies we no longer need, we can give those, too, or designate a part of the proceeds to our charities.

### *We may not be rich, but we all have an estate*

It's made up of whatever has value at the time of death, be it little or a lot. It's also a fact that most of us underestimate the value of our estates and what they might grow to by the time we die.

### *Some advantages to leaving a legacy are . . .*

. . . the genuine satisfaction derived from doing something both good and lasting: supporting education, medical care or research, our church or synagogue, youth agencies, arts organizations, the environment, human rights—all of which contribute to the well-being of our community;

*and,*

. . . in some cases, taking advantage of tax laws created by Congress for the sole purpose of encouraging us to make such gifts.

### *Some of us will even get to choose between . . .*

. . . leaving our legacy to the IRS or to an organization of our own choosing—one or more of those we value highly because of the good work they do, and with whom we'd be proud to be associated in perpetuity.

### *But we must have a valid, up-to-date will or estate plan!*

Wills and estate plans are our guarantees that what we leave behind will go to the persons and organizations that we choose, not where state law

may prescribe. So it's important to consult with a financial professional, such as an attorney or trust officer. Otherwise, we forfeit our right to decide where our estate assets will go.

### *Sounds good, and it's easy!*

There's no need to be intimidated! It's not too complicated, but we need professional advice. We should consult our attorney, accountant, insurance agent, financial planner, trust officer, or broker. If we don't know where to start, we could always meet with a representative of our favorite charity.

### *Some motives for leaving a legacy*

. . . in memory of our parents. . . for loving care given our granddaughter in her last illness. . . for spiritual comfort we received when tragedy struck. . . to help others receive a good education, just as we were helped. . . to conquer cancer or AIDS or ALS. . . because we have been so abundantly blessed. . . because it's better to give than to receive. . . because we owe something to the future, just as we received so much from the past. . . **because this will be our last opportunity to do good, and we want to make it our best ever!**