



RESPOND NOW | Because all our neighbors matter

Food Pantry

Make Your Final Wishes Come True: Add Respond Now as a Bequest in your Will or Trust

You have worked hard to accumulate assets throughout your life. Understandably, you want to ensure the hard work you invested into establishing your estate is honored beyond your years. When you create a will, you have the ability to determine how your assets are distributed at your death to the individuals and charitable organizations, and we know you have many options. We appreciate your sincere desire to give back to the community, and we are confident that your entrusting Respond Now is a sound decision. With forty-five years of service to the community, Respond Now has a proven track record of working hard to put our donors' dollars to work. You can safely designate our organization to make your dollars effective well beyond your years!

Rent and
Mortgage
Assistance

Utility
Assistance

Prescription
Vouchers

Leaving us a bequest in your will is easy. Charitable bequests can be included in your will when you have one drafted, or you can add a bequest later by means of a codicil to your will. It is important to have the correct name of the charitable organization you intend to benefit. By avoiding generalities, you prevent confusion or possible misinterpretations. Clarity ensures that your donation reaches its intended beneficiaries. While not required, it is helpful to notify us that we are being named in your will or trust documents. This way you can be sure that your bequest will be executed in the manner you intended. Additionally, we have special means of recognizing donors who have named us in their wills.

SNAP
Outreach

Charitable bequests offer some of the following advantages:

Easy Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will, such as, "I give \$10,000 to Respond Now."

Temporary
Lodging

Revocable Relationships and circumstances evolve over time and your will should naturally do the same. With a bequest, you are not actually making a gift until your death. Until then, you are free to alter your plans, eliminating the worry that you might make a commitment you could later regret.

Travel
Assistance

Tax-wise Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for bequests to qualified charitable organizations.

Lasting Legacy At Respond Now, each of your dollars will help many people. The positive impact on those lives is hard to quantify, but we hear about the successes of our work every day.

Community
Garden

Eight Ways to Make a Bequest

Here are eight generally accepted methods to leave a bequest in your will or trust. You should discuss the various strategies with your estate planning attorney as you prepare to create or update your will.

Children's
Book
Distribution

Specific bequest This is an outright bequest that is a gift of a certain item to a particular beneficiary.

"I give my diamond ring to my niece, Natalie."

General bequest This is an outright bequest and is usually a gift of a stated sum of money. It will be effective, even if there is not sufficient cash to meet the bequest. "I give \$15,000 to my cousin, Jim." If there is only \$10,000 cash in the estate, other estate assets must be sold to meet the bequest.

Holiday Toy
Drive

Residuary bequest This is an outright bequest of all the "rest, residue and remainder" of your estate after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. Divide your estate according to percentages of the residue (rather than specifying dollar amounts) to ensure that your beneficiaries receive the proportions you desire.

"I leave 15 percent of all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to Respond Now."

Contingent bequest This is a bequest made on the condition that a certain event must occur before distribution to the beneficiary. You can make provisions that money, property or a particular share will be given to some individual if that person survives you; otherwise, it is distributed to us. "I give \$20,000 to my daughter, Gail, provided she enrolls in college before age 21." A contingent bequest is specific in nature and is not effective if the condition is not met. A contingent bequest is also appropriate if you want to name a secondary beneficiary, in case the primary beneficiary does not survive you.

The previous types of bequests can apply in the case of bequests to individual heirs or bequests to charitable organizations. The following items are special considerations that apply only to charitable bequests.

Unrestricted bequest A gift like this, without conditions attached, is frequently the most useful, as it allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt. This is a gift for our general purposes to be used at the discretion of our governing board. "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Respond Now [written amount] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Restricted bequest You may restrict your gift by directing how you want it used or by allowing us to spend only the income earned on the principal. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If you wish to designate a specific purpose, we encourage you to consult us in advance to make certain we will be able to carry out your intent. "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Respond Now [written amount] for Respond Now's [specific program] operations."

Honorary or memorial bequest This is a gift given "in honor of" or "in memory of" yourself, in your family's name or on behalf of someone else. We are pleased to honor your request and have many ways to grant appropriate recognition. "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Respond Now [written amount] in honor of my mother, [name], for her lifetime interest in gardening."

Endowed bequest This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only a small percentage of its value each year. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely. "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [legal name of organization] [written amount] as an endowment with a spending rate of 5 percent per year."

For More Information

It is easy to understand why many individuals consider a charitable bequest the perfect way to make a gift. Without parting with any of your assets today, you can make provisions that will help your family and your favorite charitable organizations in the future. You will be leaving a legacy while having the satisfaction of knowing that your philanthropic dreams and goals will be met after you are gone. For more information on making a bequest, contact our development office today, **708-755-4357**, to discuss your options and how we may assist you.