

Adding Charity to Your Will or IRA



A quick guide to the pleasure and
promise of charitable bequests.



Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Adding a gift for charity to your will or retirement plan is a simple act with impressive results.



Charitable bequests are like well-kept secrets.

Few people realize that legacy gifts support much of the work Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston does today, and the good works that will happen tomorrow.

For 75 years, Catholic Charities has provided food, clothing, shelter and a network of support services to people of all ages and from all walks of life and religious backgrounds. We also promote social justice, serving as a voice for the poor and vulnerable.

Annually, we *provide help* and *create hope* for more than 80,000 people as they create better lives for themselves and their families thanks to charitable individuals like you.

You're invited



Legacy Society of Catholic Charities

If you plan for a future gift to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we'd like to honor you with a membership in a very special group -- the **Legacy Society of Catholic Charities**.

How do you join? Just let us know about your charitable bequest.

As a Legacy Society member, you're always invited to our events. You'll learn new things, have fun and meet interesting people, including other philanthropists who are dedicated to Catholic Charities and its mission.

We also celebrate your decision to make a gift in your will by including your name on our Legacy Society roster. If you prefer to join the Legacy Society anonymously, that's fine too. You'll still be invited to attend special events, and receive all of our updates; but your name will not be mentioned.



Heirs First, Charity Second.

For many, loved ones are the first priority in estate planning, and understandably so. But, frequently, charitable giving through your estate lessens the tax burden on your heirs while establishing your legacy.

Consider these options to ensure you care for your family and friends in the most beneficial way:

Earmark a set dollar amount – say \$50,000 – that you are comfortable using to start your endowed charitable fund.

Dedicate a specific percentage of your estate to start your fund, so you know that your family will receive the share you want them to have.

Leave a residuary bequest to start your fund. The residuary is what remains of your estate after other distributions have been made.

In most cases, it is best to donate your most highly taxable assets. Consider a retirement plan, like an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or pension. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value may be lost through estate and income taxes. But, if you use retirement assets to start your endowed charitable fund, not only is the full value of your gift transferred to your fund tax-free, your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction.

Are there causes you would like to benefit forever?



We can help you in three easy steps:

1. In your will or estate plan, tell us how you wish the money in your fund to be used. Are there certain programs you'd like to benefit? Or are there specific causes? Or are you leaving an "unrestricted" gift to help solve future problems no one can imagine today?
2. In your will or estate plan, tell us what you'd like to call your fund. Remember: you're creating a permanent legacy in that name. A hundred years from now, your fund will still be making gifts in whatever name you choose: a family name, the name of a dear friend, a favorite teacher or anyone else you wish to honor. Some donors set up multiple funds to honor a variety of people. Of course, you can also set up an anonymous fund if you prefer.
3. Arrange to set aside at least \$25,000 to endow each fund you wish to create. You can find specific examples at www.CatholicCharities.org. But, here's a sample of what your will might say:

I give, devise, and bequeath *[here you'd insert a dollar amount, a percentage or the rest and residue of your estate]* to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston ("Catholic Charities"), a 501(c)3 nonprofit, authorized by its charter and bylaws to accept, hold and administer charitable funds.

This gift should be used to establish an unrestricted fund *[or other type: see next page]*. This will be a component fund of Catholic Charities.

The Fund shall be named The _____ Fund. The fund's purpose *[if not unrestricted]* is to *[insert details]*.

Sample Bequest Language

We have provided some basic bequest language to assist you and your attorney.

1. Bequest of a specific dollar amount

“I hereby, give, devise and bequeath [\$Dollars] to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a nonprofit organization located at 2900 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77006, Federal Tax ID: 74-1109733, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s general use and purposes.”

2. Bequest of specific personal property

“I hereby, give, devise and bequeath [Description of Property] to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a nonprofit organization located at 2900 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77006, Federal Tax ID: 74-1109733, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s general use and purposes.”

3. Bequest of specific real estate

“I hereby, give, devise and bequeath all of the right, title and interest in and to the real estate located at [Address or Description of Property] to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a nonprofit organization located at 2900 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77006, Federal Tax ID: 74-1109733, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s general use and purposes.”

4. Bequest of percentage of an estate

“I hereby, give, devise and bequeath [Percentage of Your Estate] to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, a nonprofit organization located at 2900 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77006, Federal Tax ID: 74-1109733, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s general use and purposes.”

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Commonly Asked Questions

Why would I leave a bequest to Catholic Charities?

Your bequest lets you easily support the work we do with one act of generosity. If you choose a permanent endowment, its impact will grow over time as your fund supports the work important to you.

If I choose to join the Legacy Society for Catholic Charities, do I have to reveal the amount of my bequest?

Absolutely not. We'd appreciate knowing, but the choice to tell us the amount of your gift is entirely up to you.

How do I let you know I've made the bequest, so I can join the Legacy Society?

It's easy. Once you've added Catholic Charities to your estate plans, contact us and we'll make sure we have accurate contact information for you:

Phone: 713.874.6624
Email: bequests@catholiccharities.org
Mail: Catholic Charities
ATTN: Bequests
2900 Louisiana Street
Houston, TX 77006

Can I join the Legacy Society for Catholic Charities with gifts other than through bequests?

Yes. The Legacy Society welcomes and honors donors who have made any kind of future commitment to Catholic Charities. For example, the Society includes people who have named Catholic Charities as the beneficiary of charitable remainder trusts or their retirement accounts.

Is it easy to add a charitable gift to my will?

Yes, it's simple. A short phone call or meeting with your lawyer will work.

What if I don't have a will yet?

A surprising number of people -- even those with substantial assets -- never get around to this essential task. If you don't have a will and would like a referral to a qualified estate attorney in your community, Catholic Charities can help. We've worked with local lawyers over the years. Give us a call at 713.874.6624 so we can assist you.

Commonly Asked Questions (continued)

How much should I leave?

You can leave any amount to go into an existing fund at Catholic Charities. However, if your gift is \$25,000 or more, you can choose to start a named fund and determine its purpose (e.g., to help specific programs or address a community need).

Will \$25,000 be enough to make a difference?

A \$25,000 endowed fund will yield roughly \$1,125 in income for grants or specific programs in its first year. That's equivalent to 4.5% of the fund amount. This amount might seem modest, but remember that your fund is permanent. Your endowed fund will grow over time, as will the money put to work for specific programs.

Do I have to leave a dollar amount as a bequest?

While you can name a specific dollar amount in your will, you can also arrange to leave a percentage of your estate's value or the residual of your estate after other gifts are made. We welcome gifts of any size.

If yours is \$25,000 or more then you can create a named fund and determine its purpose. If it is less, you can arrange for a gift to be put to immediate use.

Does my bequest gift have to be cash?

No. You have several options in addition to cash:

- Physical assets such as a house or condominium.
- Financial investments such as stocks, bonds or certificates of deposit.
- A life insurance policy or retirement plan. You can arrange for this type of gift by making Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston your beneficiary.

How long will my gift keep helping my community?

Forever! Plus your initial gift will grow over time, as will the amounts given in your name each year to the program or need you selected.



Gordon J. Quan

**member since 2016 of the
Legacy Society of
Catholic Charities of the
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston**

“I have been impressed with Catholic Charities’ work for all of God’s children in need, not just Catholics.”

Type of Charitable Bequest

Mr. Quan’s charitable bequest is unrestricted. In other words, it can be used to help any good cause or urgent need in the community. “I am happy to share that we left a bequeath to Catholic Charities when I am not even Catholic,” says Mr. Quan. “I am confident in leaving a gift unrestricted and at the discretion of Catholic Charities to use wisely.”

Background

A nationally recognized immigration attorney, Mr. Quan has practiced law in the Houston area for more than 30 years. He is co-founder and managing partner of the Quan Law Group. Mr. Quan has also generously given his time to his community through service on the Houston City Council and as President of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials of the National League of Cities.



Here are two points we'd like you to consider:

A bequest is major philanthropy almost anyone can do.

You do not have to be wealthy to make a charitable bequest that will make a noticeable impact in your community. With good stewardship, a relatively modest bequest from a middle-income estate -- \$25,000 for a named endowment at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston -- will grow into a small fortune within a few decades. At the same time this fund will annually generate ever-increasing payments to the good causes or programs that are your fund's beneficiaries.

With an endowed charitable fund, your impact on the community will never end.

When you endow a charitable fund with a gift from your will or retirement account, you're starting something permanent. Endowment is forever. Some of the world's oldest charitable endowments are in England. Today, they continue to fund good works more than 500 years after their creation. That's what you're buying with your gift: years, decades, generations, centuries of doing good in whatever name you choose for your fund.

Join the Legacy Society of Catholic Charities

Here is how you can let us know you have made plans for a charitable bequest:

Call us at **713.874.6624**

or email us at

bequests@catholiccharities.org

or write to us at

Catholic Charities

ATTN: Bequests

2900 Louisiana Street

Houston, TX 77006

For more information, please visit us at

www.CatholicCharities.org/bequests

Tell your friends

Research shows more than 90% of donors in the U.S. are happy to consider adding a gift for charity to their wills. Yet less than 10% of U.S. households actually get around to making a charitable bequest. Why? The No. 1 reason cited, “It just never occurred to me.”

You are an extraordinary person to consider leaving a bequest to help future generations. **Thank you!**



Providing Help.
Creating Hope.



OUR VISION

People of faith helping people in need achieve self-sufficiency and live with dignity.



OUR MISSION

Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities helps people in southeast Texas by providing caring, compassionate services and advocating for social justice in collaboration with parishes and communities.



OUR CORE VALUES

FAITH: Inspired by the Gospel and our Catholic tradition, we serve as a healing presence with special concern for our neighbors who are vulnerable, respecting their diversity and dignity.

INTEGRITY: We foster a high quality workplace and inspire trust through personal leadership. We are honest and ethical in all aspects of our organization.

COLLABORATION: We work together with people who support common values and vision to achieve shared goals.

Join the Catholic Charities Legacy Society

713.874.6624

bequests@catholiccharities.org

www.CatholicCharities.org/bequests

www.CatholicCharities.org | 713.526.4611 | 2900 Louisiana Street | Houston, Texas 77006



YouTube

