

# Achieving significance

## Create your financial legacy

**Because you care about the impact you have on others, give your legacy the proper attention it deserves.**

Regardless of what stage of life you are in—from starting a family and building your career to enjoying an active, happy retirement—your financial goals are most likely a top priority and are adjusted on a regular basis.

However, like many people, there's one goal you may have been putting off—deciding how to share your wealth with the people and causes you care about. Legacy planning is one way to leave a lasting impression, but is often overlooked because discussions about life's end are sensitive. A complete wealth management plan includes your legacy plan.

### **Key legacy planning considerations**

Various strategies and tools are available that may help you lay the proper foundation to carry out a strong and lasting legacy. Depending on what is important to you, your financial professional can help you choose solutions that revolve around your needs and wishes.

### **Respect your wishes**

Developing your legacy plan now gives you an opportunity to make clear-headed choices about both your finances and the health care

you receive, should you face a serious medical crisis or become incapacitated and unable to make decisions on your own. A legacy plan allows your loved ones to act on your behalf as well as providing you comfort, knowing that your desires are being implemented in a way that would be faithful to your wishes.

### **Ease wealth transitions**

Creating a legacy plan helps you relieve some of the burdens associated with settling your estate. By making specific financial preparations in advance, you have time to delegate how to leave affairs when the time comes. Discussing and planning with family members or a charity along the way is a great way to let them know what's meaningful to you.

### **Continue to support causes important to you**

Planning ahead allows you to continue contributing to organizations you have been involved with personally or that represent ideals you hold dear. You've worked hard to make a difference in the world throughout your life—and knowing that your financial contributions help carry your charitable goals forward may offer you peace of mind. Someday your charitable legacy may also

give your family a sense of pride through their own involvement with and support of the causes that are important to you.

### **Reduce your estate tax impact**

A thought to consider when putting together a legacy plan is the tax implications it may create. To maximize your legacy, consider consulting with an estate planning attorney, accountant or other investment professional along with your financial professional, to confirm your wealth is transferred efficiently to your intended heirs.

### **Your legacy is important**

Simply sharing knowledge, resources and energy with family members or charitable organizations can be invaluable gifts by themselves. From a financial standpoint, the legacy you create can start now and carry on throughout retirement. In addition, planning your legacy early gives you the opportunity to help guide it toward the outcome you envision.

Whether you decide to contribute a bench to your favorite park, establish trusts for loved ones, or build a wing in a hospital, your legacy is a representation of your life and what you value most.

## Isn't it time you started planning your legacy?

Legacy planning does not have to be difficult, but it is much more than simply writing a will. Your life has tremendous significance because it touches many, in ways you may not even imagine. Show the people and organizations you care about how much they mean to you by including them in your legacy.

Your financial professional collaborates with your tax and legal advisors to develop a legacy plan that may encompass wills, trusts, foundations and endowments, depending on your situation. To start exploring your legacy planning options, please speak with your financial professional today.

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