

# EWVCF Legacy Society - Sample Bequest Wording

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**Charitable Bequests** A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament or trust. There are many different kinds of bequests. For each, you must use very specific language to indicate the precise distribution of your assets, and to successfully carry out your final wishes. In any charitable bequest, be sure to name the recipient accurately. For instance, a gift to one of our Community Impact Funds would benefit nonprofit organizations serving the Eastern Panhandle county of your choice.

**General Bequests** are legacies left to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation that come from the general value of the estate, and are made by designating a specific dollar amount or a fixed percentage of your estate. General bequest language: "I give, devise, and bequeath to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation headquartered in Martinsburg, West Virginia, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_% of the residue of my estate), for its general purposes (or for the \_\_\_\_\_ County Community Impact Fund, etc.)."

**Specific Bequests** are made when a particular item or property is bequeathed for a designated purpose. Specific bequest language: "I give, devise, and bequeath to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, headquartered in Martinsburg, West Virginia, my \_\_\_\_\_ (description of a specific asset), for its general purposes (or for the \_\_\_\_\_ County Community Impact Fund, etc.)."

**Residuary Bequests** are made when you intend to leave the residue portion of your assets after other terms of the will or trust have been satisfied. Residuary bequest language: "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, of any nature whatsoever and wheresoever situate, I give to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation headquartered in Martinsburg, West Virginia, for its general purposes (or for the \_\_\_\_\_ County Community Impact Fund, etc.)."

**Contingency Bequests** allow you to leave a portion of your estate to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation if your named beneficiary does not survive you. Contingency bequest language: "I devise and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, of any nature whatsoever and wheresoever situate, to (name of beneficiary), if (she/he) survives me. If (name of beneficiary) does not survive me, I devise and bequeath all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, of any nature whatsoever and wheresoever situate to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation headquartered in Martinsburg, West Virginia for its general purposes."

**Beneficiary designations** in a life insurance policy, bank account, or a retirement plan (like a Traditional IRA) are also simple and meaningful ways to make a planned gift to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation. These allow you to list the Foundation along with others that you would like to benefit from the proceeds of the policy or plan. You can name the Foundation as the sole beneficiary or as one of numerous beneficiaries. As well, you can name the Foundation for a percentage or for a specific dollar amount of the proceeds. Just ask the administrator of your policy or plan for a designation form if you wish to make this kind of gift.

*Disclaimer: The sample language provided above does not constitute legal, tax or other advice as the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and its affiliates do not provided such advice. Donors are encouraged to consult with their legal, tax or other advisors to properly coordinate their charitable gift bequest to the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation or its affiliates.*

To create a new fund in order to designate the use of a donation made through a bequest, please contact our offices for a template of a shell fund agreement. It is a simple process that lets us know your charitable intentions.

If you have questions about this information, please contact:

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