

LCIF Volunteer Coordinators

*Building a Stronger Foundation,
Creating a Better World*



Guide to Fund Raising Planned Giving

“Planned Giving” is a set of ways a donor can leave money or assets to a nonprofit either at his/her death; or by investing money so that the donor receives benefits during his/her life and then bequeaths the remaining funds to the nonprofit. The most common type of planned gift is the bequest, which allows donors to leave a gift or percentage of their estate through their will. While the vast majority of planned gifts are made through bequests, other options are available including:

- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable lead trusts
- Gifts of property or other assets, such as securities, retirement assets, and life insurance

Planned gifts are a growing area in philanthropy and are very important to the Foundation’s future. They are especially common in the United States and Canada, where there can be significant tax benefits for donors and their estates, but they are becoming more common in other parts of the world. Please note that some forms of planned giving may not be available in all parts of the Lions’ world.

Bequests

A bequest is the simplest and most common type of planned gift. Bequests make it possible for donors to retain use and ownership of cash or property during life, but support the humanitarian work of LCIF upon their death. Sample bequest language for a will is below:

I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Lions Clubs International Foundation, whose international office address is 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842, [written amount or percentage of the estate] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”

It is important that donors notify LCIF of their intentions to include the Foundation in their estate plans. Once LCIF learns of a donor’s planned gift, they will be included as a member of the Lions Legacy Program giving society. The Lions Legacy Program is an honorary group established by LCIF as a way of bringing those who make a bequest or lifetime gift into our extended family.

Lions Legacy Program

Lions who make a planned gift of any size or type are eligible to join the Lions Legacy Program. The Lions Legacy Program is a giving society established by LCIF as a way of acknowledging those who make a bequest or lifetime gift.

In addition to bequests, several other planned giving options are available:

Charitable gift annuities: A gift annuity is an agreement through which a donor makes a gift of cash, property or other assets and a nonprofit agrees to make fixed payments to the donor for their lifetime.

Charitable remainder trusts: A charitable remainder trust is funded by cash or property from a donor. The donor received an income stream for life (or a specified term). The nonprofit receives the remainder of the trust upon death or at the end of the term.

Charitable lead trusts: A charitable lead trust is funded by cash or property from a donor and makes payments to a nonprofit for a specified term. At the end of the term, the remainder of the trust is distributed to a specified beneficiary, usually family.

LCIF Development staff is available to help guide the best strategy for planned giving and to address specific donor questions and concerns. These staff members can provide you with additional tools and specific directions to aid you in this process.

The most important way to promote planned giving is to let your fellow Lions know that several options are available. In many cases, planned gifts allow donors to have a greater impact on the work of the Foundation than would otherwise be possible.

When talking to Lions about planned gifts, keep the following in mind:

1. Encourage Lions interested in planned giving to consult an expert.

Estate and tax laws and procedures vary significantly throughout the Lions' world, so it is very important to advise any Lion wishing to make a planned gift to consult an attorney, financial advisor, or other expert. There are also different types of bequests and other planned gifts, so it is important that the donor understand the available options.

2. Ask Lions interested in making a bequest or other planned gift to contact foundation staff.

It is important for LCIF to be aware of any planned gifts so that Foundation staff can take appropriate follow-up measures. Donors making planned gifts are also eligible for special recognition through the Lions Legacy Program.

3. Remember that there is planned giving potential at all levels.

Keep in mind that even small planned gifts are important to the Foundation. A donor does not need to be wealthy in order to make a planned gift. Encourage every Lion to think about estate planning and to make a will.

www.LCIF.org/plannedgiving



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