

DETERMINING YOUR LEGACY

Thinking about leaving a legacy? We can help! Did you know that many donors give their largest charitable gift after death? The Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation encourages donors to plan wisely and thoughtfully when making charitable decisions.

Questions to ask yourself as you consider leaving a gift to charity by a planned gift.

1. **Think about the charitable gifts you have made in the past.** What motivated you to give? Why was it important for you to contribute at that time?

2. **In creating a will, have you given appropriate thought to healthcare directives, living wills, or end of life issues?** Do you have dependent children or stepchildren, or adult children? If so, have you considered whether or not they will be receive a portion of your inheritance? What about grandchildren? If you do not have children, do you have nieces, nephews, or perhaps other special individuals to whom you'd like to leave a portion of your estate?

3. **What do you value and/or treasure?** You may value: independence, truth, knowledge, work ethic, family, money, volunteering, spiritual beliefs, community, etc. How would you like to translate those values into a benefit for the greater good?

4. **Did you attend college here?** Do you have children or grandchildren who did? What was your degree? How would you like to contribute to FSW to ensure that other students receive the same excellent educational opportunities?

5. **Have you contacted a board certified estate attorney, financial planner, or accountant to help you prepare your estate documents?**

Common myths or barriers about charitable giving

1. **"I have to be rich to give money away to have any impact."** Any amount that you give to a charity will have some benefit. Even a small percentage of your estate could make a big difference in the normal course of operations. Donors at ALL levels provide vital funding for the mission of Florida SouthWestern State College.

2. **"Non profits spend the majority of donations on big salaries."** Nonprofits expend most of their dollars toward the programming needs and mission delivery of the organization, which includes hiring staff members to carry out the work. Non-profits face incredible pressure from three key audiences: the clients they serve, donors that give, and increased government scrutiny. This pressure, combined with professional standards in accounting, human resources, volunteer management, gift management, and privacy/security regulations, mean that the nonprofit sector looks for professional staff members who can manage for change.

3. **"There are too many charities out there. I can't decide."** Actually, your own values decide for you! Here at FSW, we can assist you in determining exactly how you'd like for your legacy gift to be used to benefit higher education on our campuses.

CONTINUE READING ON NEXT PAGE.

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Here are some ways that you can leave a planned or deferred gift to the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation.

It may be helpful to bring this form with you when you visit your professional advisor or to discuss these options with a Foundation staff professional who can explain each option in detail.

1. Name the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc. as a charitable beneficiary of your will or trust. You may select a specific dollar amount or you can name a percentage of your estate. In addition, you can specify how you want this funding to be earmarked (unrestricted, scholarships, etc.) through a special Letter of Intent.

2. Name the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation as a charitable beneficiary of a life insurance policy. We accept gifts of new and existing whole life insurance (no term or non-dividend policies). You, as the donor, designate the Foundation as the sole owner and irrevocable beneficiary.

3. Create a charitable trust naming the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation as a beneficiary.

4. Name the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation as a charitable beneficiary of a retirement account.

5. Establish a charitable gift annuity. A donor who is 60 years old or older may irrevocably transfer assets to the foundation (a specific sum of cash or publicly traded securities held long-term) that are valued at a minimum of \$10,000. The Foundation will then pay you (and/or another beneficiary) a guaranteed fixed annual payment, paid quarterly, for the lives of the individuals named in the gift annuity agreement. This is usually seen as a “win-win” scenario, because the donor will continue to receive income, and the residual gift will benefit FSW.

6. Do you have a private family foundation? Are your giving goals directed toward education? You may wish to establish guidelines for Trustees/Directors of your own foundation to continue beyond your lifetime, an annual gift to the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation.

7. Other creative ways to include Florida SouthWestern State College include art, collectibles, real estate, and other tangible property that may be used to carry out our mission.

Wills language

Below is simple language that you can easily incorporate in your will or trust documents.

“I give and bequeath to Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Florida and having its principal office at 8099 College Parkway, Ft. Myers, FL 33919.

» **(To make a cash bequest)** the sum of \$ _____ to be used by Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes.

» **(To give a percentage of the estate)** _____ percent of my estate to be used by Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes.

» **(To give a residual amount or remaining interest)** the rest, residue and remainder of my estate after all debts, expenses and taxes have been paid and all the general and specific bequests have been made, to be used by Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation, Inc. for its general purposes.

» **(To give a tangible asset or property)** _____ shares of common stock of _____ (or insert here a description of other property) owned by me at my death as these shares shall exist at the date of my death, to be used by Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation for its general purposes.

Your estate attorney, tax attorney, CPA, or financial advisor can help you determine if any of these options will be a good fit for your overall financial plan. Our staff at the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation can also help you determine how your gift will have the greatest impact on the mission of the college for students and, ultimately, our greater community good.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? [Contact the Florida SouthWestern State College Foundation Office at 239-489-9210.](#)

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