



Planned Giving Opportunities at Iowa Legal Aid

WAYS TO GIVE

RETIREMENT PLAN GIFT

Many individuals today have qualified retirement plans such as an IRA, 401(k) or Keogh plan. A gift to Iowa Legal Aid from a retirement plan offers significant tax saving opportunities. The gift itself is tax deductible and it may significantly reduce the taxable remainder of your retirement plan.

LIFE INSURANCE GIFT

Existing or new life insurance policies can be a good way to give to Iowa Legal Aid. Proceeds given from an existing policy are completely removed from your estate. Premiums for a new life insurance policy naming Iowa Legal Aid as the beneficiary are completely tax deductible.

BEQUEST/WILL

You can donate to Iowa Legal Aid in your will or trust through a bequest.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

The gift annuity enables you to make a gift to support Iowa Legal Aid and at the same time improve the quality of life for your family. In exchange for your gift of cash or marketable securities to Iowa Legal Aid, we agree to pay you (and a survivor or other beneficiary) a fixed amount annually for your lifetime. The transfer is a part gift and part purchase of an annuity. The rate of return is attractive and the payments are guaranteed for life.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

A trust is a legal agreement that specifies how the assets placed under the trust will be managed. The charitable remainder trust is an attractive method to achieve a variety of goals while providing income for life and knowing that after your lifetime, the property remaining in the trust will be used by Iowa Legal Aid as you specified.

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

Individuals with very large estates can use a charitable lead trust to benefit Iowa Legal Aid and pass principal to family members with little or no tax penalty.

LIFE INCOME GIFT

Family obligations and the need to provide for retirement make it difficult to consider substantial charitable gifts. A life income gift is a way to have the satisfaction of making a meaningful gift without sacrifice. In fact, you can get current income tax and financial benefits. You irrevocably transfer some assets to Iowa Legal Aid now, and in return, you (and a survivor, if you wish) receive income for life. The assets are used to carry out our mission.

I don't need to tell you that many Americans have had a rough go of it the last few years. As a solo practitioner, I have experienced the impact of the recession in my own practice. Even so, it is staggering to think about how unemployment and the home foreclosure crisis have impacted the poor and unemployed. Thousands have faced the loss of their homes in addition to their livelihoods. As bad as things are, they would have been a whole lot worse for many were it not for the work of Iowa Legal Aid, which leads me to the subject I want to raise with my friends and colleagues.



I have been a regular donor to Iowa Legal Aid. Legal Aid faces many challenges with the loss of federal and state funding, which I'd love to fix with a single check. As much as I'd like to do that, I can't. I do serve on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation and I have been working to find ways to get the organization more funding. One of the things I decided to do was to leave a legacy demonstrating my support for equal access to justice and to Iowa Legal Aid. To do so, I recently amended my will to include a bequest to Iowa Legal Aid. I did so because there is no greater satisfaction for me than helping vulnerable Iowans secure the legal assistance they gravely need. It is important to me to help build Iowa Legal Aid's long-term financial security to ensure this country's promise of equal justice for all.

Why Iowa Legal Aid?

Iowa Legal Aid is a not-for-profit law firm that provides free legal services to low-income vulnerable Iowans to help ensure they have the necessities of shelter, sustenance and safety.

Iowa Legal Aid helps people in all 99 Iowa counties where, according to the 2010 Census, an estimated 499,474 individuals are eligible for their services. Access to our system of justice is especially critical for low-income Iowans who cannot afford legal help when faced with homelessness, abuse, hunger and sickness.

I know many of the people who have been and continue to be associated with legal aid personally and I am impressed by their dedication and the sacrifices they have willingly made to support equal access to justice. I am proud to be a part of that community of advocates and I want to make a meaningful contribution to support these efforts. Join me.

I hope my decision will encourage others to make legacy gifts to help Iowa Legal Aid's staff of dedicated professionals to continue to provide needed legal help to thousands of Iowans.