

Perhaps the easiest approach to planned giving is often the most forgotten.

Some people think that estate planning is only for those who have a great deal of money. However, many of us have the ability to help others once we're gone. Personal life insurance policies, the value of a business, real estate investments or home equity are just a few of the valuable possessions we have to reduce taxes while helping further a favorite charitable organization like the Marquette General Foundation.

By making a gift in a will, a donor can shape the future of Marquette General Foundation ([www.mgh.org/foundation](http://www.mgh.org/foundation)) in a meaningful way a gift that will do wonders long after he/she is gone.

At one's death, assets are distributed to at least two of the following three beneficiaries: your chosen heirs, the United States government, or the charitable organization(s) of one's choice. If a donor doesn't stipulate his/her desires in a legal method, a significant portion of the estate could be reduced by taxes rather than directed to what he/she value most.

Updating a will is neither costly nor time-consuming. In many cases, it only requires the addition of an amendment to one's existing will. This supplemental amendment is called a Codicil. It is a legal document written by your attorney in accordance with state laws.

This is typically how the language would read:

"I \_\_\_\_\_ give, devise and bequeath to Marquette General Foundation, Marquette, Michigan, the sum of (spell out the amount), (\$\_\_\_\_\_) -or -(# of) shares of the common stock of XYZ Corporation, Certificate Numbers \_\_\_\_\_, to be used for the general purposes of the Marquette General Foundation."

Or, the gift can be a fixed percentage of an estate.

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Marquette General Foundation, Marquette, Michigan, \_\_\_\_% of the rest and residue of my estate, to be used for ?

Leaving a part of one's will or estate plan to the Marquette General Foundation ensures that future generations can enjoy the high quality of health care that our community has grown to expect. Donors can be assured that those assets will help Marquette General further its mission of providing the finest available health care in the Upper Peninsula. The added benefit to estate planning is that it can reduce your estate tax liability, thus, benefiting your heirs.

Someone once said, "The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention."

It provides the easiest, safest (it's totally revocable at any time) and surest way for you to contribute assets and be certain your gift will be used as you wish.

For more information on making wills/estates part of charitable giving, please contact me in the Marquette General Foundation at 906-225-3431 or by email at [jlajoie@mgh.org](mailto:jlajoie@mgh.org). Better yet, why not stop in to me in the Foundation offices located in the West Addition adjacent to the ED? I'll be happy to discuss your situation and provide additional easy-to-read information on estate and will planning.