



Ansonia Riverwalk



You can help build a better, stronger Valley.

Would you like to make a **difference**?

What causes do you **support**?

What **legacy** will you leave?

Why not **now**?

Why not **forever**?

A plan is defined as a set of actions that have been thought of as a way to do or achieve something that a person intends to do. A "giving plan" is specifically what you want your assets to achieve when you give them away during your lifetime or upon your death. An effective giving plan will minimize the taxes that are imposed as a result of your assets being transferred to others. The giving plan you put into place now can create enduring benefits for the people and causes that matter most to you.





Your Legacy Your Plan

Your Legacy

Many individuals find that one of the most gratifying aspects of success is the ability to provide financial support to help transform charitable goals into meaningful actions. You have the ability to change the lives of countless Valley residents and organizations without affecting your current lifestyle. You can support the projects and people of the Valley and lend a hand to those providing everything from critical care to scholarships to unique cultural events.

Your Plan

Planned gifts can be made during your lifetime or included as part of your estate plan, and can include a range of assets such as cash, securities or property. One of the most important facets of planning is aligning your assets with your goals and aspirations. The manner in which you structure your plan can be as simple or complex as you like. Planned gifts provide a well thought-out and holistic strategy to achieve your goals and perpetuate your values. Your gift can be made available for current use to address the needs of today or endowed in perpetuity to meet the changing needs of tomorrow. There are countless ways for you to make a difference.

What Planned Giving Looks Like

Planned gifts are thoughtful and intentional charitable gifts that make an impact now and in the future. Each donor has unique philanthropic goals and objectives. Drawing on experience and creativity, you can design a planned giving solution that addresses your specific needs – both charitable and financial.

Bequest by Will or Trust



Sandra Y. didn't have the financial liquidity to give during her lifetime but, as part of her will, gave a percentage of her estate to the local historical society in honor of her husband's passion for Valley history.

The bequest is a revocable gift from a will or personal trust of cash, securities, real estate or other assets. A common form of a bequest is a percentage of one's assets or the residual value of the estate given in your memory or in that of a loved one. You can work with your favorite charity to create a lasting legacy. Your existing will can be easily amended through a codicil.

Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation



George M. named the local community foundation as the beneficiary of his IRA to benefit nonprofits serving the Valley.

Using retirement plan assets to fulfill your philanthropic goals can be far more advantageous than directing these assets to your estate or leaving them to heirs. Distributions from a retirement plan are typically taxable to the recipient if they are not a recognized charitable organization. You may be able to designate one or more of your favorite charities as the beneficiary of your qualified retirement account for all or a percentage of your plan.

Charitable Gift Annuity



Ralph J. set up a charitable gift annuity to increase his income during his lifetime and then upon his death the remaining balance went to benefit his favorite volunteer fire department.

A charitable gift annuity is an irrevocable agreement between you and your favorite charity, whereby you donate cash or stock now, gain immediate tax benefits, and receive a fixed and guaranteed income for life for you and/or a loved one.

Charitable Remainder Trust



Jerry P. receives a portion of the income from the trust for a designated amount of time. After Jerry passes away, or at the end of the trust's time period, the assets will go to the animal shelter.

You can place cash, stock or other property, such as real estate, in a trust that pays annual income to you (or another named beneficiary) for a predetermined amount of time, after which the trust ends and the assets go to your favorite charity. You receive an income tax deduction for the "present value" of the gift to charity.

Charitable Lead Trust



Bob and Linda M. established a charitable lead trust to provide a youth organization with a reliable stream of income and to ultimately pass along the assets to their grandchildren once the trust ends.

A charitable lead trust enables you to make a significant commitment to a charity now while transferring substantial assets to beneficiaries later. You can place cash or property into a trust that pays income to a charity for the number of years you select (or for someone's lifetime). Once this period ends, the assets held by the trust are transferred to the beneficiaries you name, most often your direct heirs (often saving substantial transfer taxes); alternatively, you can provide that the trust assets revert back to you.

Life Insurance Policy Beneficiary



Once his children and grandchildren were grown and independent, John G. established his favorite charity as the beneficiary of his life insurance policy. Upon his passing, the organization will receive the full amount tax-free.

Policies that are no longer needed to protect your family from financial burdens of your passing can be used to fund your charitable plans by designating one or more of your favorite charities as the beneficiary. You may be able to transfer ownership of a policy with cash value to the charity and receive a charitable deduction. The charity will receive the face value of the policy upon your death.

A Summary of Planned Giving

It is as simple or complex as you want.



You pass on both your wealth and your values.



Planned gifts allow you to give back while maintaining control of your assets that have special importance to you and your family.

You protect and preserve assets while ensuring they are distributed in the way you intend.



You will support the philanthropic causes that are significant to you.



You minimize taxes on assets passed on to your heirs.

Contact your professional advisor or the Valley Community Foundation to learn how you can give back to the Valley.



You can support the **Valley** forever.

It's a universal truth: You can't take it with you. You use your assets throughout your lifetime. You provide for your heirs through your estate plan and have the ability to create a lasting legacy for the Valley. Your planned gifts will impact what you're passionate about and make a difference, regardless of the amount of your gift. It's that easy.

Your legacy is forever.

Whether your gift is endowed or for current use, your legacy is forever. A legacy isn't only what you leave to the world. When you add a charity or charities in your estate plan, you create something powerful, a legacy that tells future generations what causes mattered to you. Your action will inspire others to follow your example and make a difference in their own way.

How will you make a difference?

Is there a particular charity that has had a significant positive impact on you or a family member?

Is there a particular issue, such as basic needs, that you would like to help impact?

Have you consistently supported an organization or cause during your lifetime?

Would you like to memorialize a loved one, such as a deceased family member?

Do you want your gift to have a major impact on the charity or community?

Ways you may want to consider:

Do you want to secure stable lifetime income?

Do you want to make the gift during your lifetime?

Do you have a life insurance policy?

Do you have a retirement account such as a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA or 401K?

Do you have a significant amount of appreciated stock giving you low dividends?

Hopefully this brochure inspired you to think about ways in which you can set up a planned gift.

While everyone's situation is different, a planned gift benefitting the Valley will make an impact in the community both today and for generations to come. You can build a better, stronger, more vibrant Valley. Start the conversation with your trusted professional advisor to discuss what planned giving strategy is best for you.

This brochure is printed, produced and distributed by the Valley Community Foundation and developed with the support of philanthropic-minded professional advisors in alignment with the organization's mission of connecting private philanthropy to the long-term good of the Valley. The Community Foundation is proud to serve as a trusted philanthropic advisor for Valley nonprofits and invites you to call (203) 751-9162 to discuss how you can support the causes you care about most, forever.

Your Valley Your Legacy

Disclaimer: The information in this brochure is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended to be and does not constitute as legal, financial or taxation advice. This brochure is general in nature and should only be acted on after completing due diligence and upon consulting with a professional advisor.

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a wooden bench, silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of legacy and inspiration.

You will inspire others.

*Your Valley
Your Legacy*

