

DOCUMENTING YOUR BEQUEST



Each year, many alumni and friends reveal that they have included the University in their estate plans. Some provide additional details about their intentions, in effect “documenting” their generous future gifts to the University. Here are five good reasons why bequest donors should consider this step.

1. RECOGNITION

Documenting your bequest will allow the University to recognize you now for your future gift. While there is no minimum gift amount necessary to become a member of the Phoenix Society, depending on the estimated value of your bequest, you may qualify for membership in other giving societies as well—such as the Harper Society and Founders Circle. Phoenix Society Members receive invitations to exclusive University events and complimentary admission to Harper Lectures, which showcase esteemed faculty members speaking on relevant and intellectually stimulating topics.

2. PEACE OF MIND

Providing the University with copies of your bequest will help ensure your wishes are met. With respect to designating specific purposes or programs, the University can review the language to make sure it can carry out your intentions and, in the case of an endowed fund, that the necessary endowment language is included.

3. DESIGNATING A PURPOSE

If you have not yet designated a purpose, you can sign a Letter of Direction specifying a purpose. A signed Letter of Direction and copies of your bequest documentation will complete our records and be kept safely in our files.

4. INSPIRING OTHERS

Estate gifts are a crucial source of support for the University. If you document your bequest, the estimated value can also count toward current fundraising totals, inspiring other alumni and friends to follow in your footsteps. In the last campaign, 12 percent, or \$295 million of the Chicago Initiative total (\$2.3 billion), was composed of planned gifts. Of that, \$79 million was attributed to documented bequests, also referred to as bequest expectancies.

5. NO OBLIGATIONS

Please understand that by documenting your bequest, you are in no way making your bequest binding or irrevocable. You still have the liberty to revise your estate plan if your circumstances or priorities change, although we do ask that you notify us as a courtesy if that happens.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO