

# Planned Giving

## Investing in the future – Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a term that covers all kinds of charitable gifts, such as bequests, trusts and gifts of retirement benefits, which allow you to leave a legacy that will continue far beyond your lifetime. There are many different ways to contribute and to help us continue to preserve our open spaces and unique habitats within McHenry County. Please contact us directly to discuss your own interests so that we may better address your philanthropic and financial planning goals. Listed below are just a few examples of Planned Giving strategies:

### Honorary and Memorial Gifts

#### *Honor Your Loved Ones!*

Honorary and memorial gifts to McHenry County Conservation Foundation (MCCF) are a wonderful and meaningful way to celebrate loved ones who cherish the natural beauty and open spaces of McHenry County.

- Honorary Gifts: Show your love and support to a loved one through a honorary gift. Mail your donation directly to MCCF, or call us to make arrangements at 815-759-9390. You may specify if you are giving in honor of an occasion, such as a couple's wedding, an anniversary or a birthday. The honoree will receive a card from MCCF notifying them of the gift and the person(s) who made it.
- Memorial Gifts: We've all lost someone who was dear to us, either a family member or a friend who was deeply loved and cherished. If that someone had a passion for open space and nature, you can commemorate their life with a memorial gift. Mail your donation directly to MCCF, or call us to make arrangements at 815-759-9390. If you wish for MCCF to notify next of kin or close friends of your memorial gift, please make that notation with your donation.

## **Bequests**

A bequest is an easy and simple way to give a gift of cash, securities or personal property that does not affect the donor's income or estate during their lifetime. A charitable donation through a bequest in a will also enables the donor to take advantage of tax-saving opportunities that preserve as much of the estate as possible by lowering estate taxes that must be paid by heirs. There are several types of bequests, and donors are urged to discuss their plans with an attorney or financial advisor before any decisions are made. Here are just a few examples of commonly used bequests:

- **Unrestricted bequest** - This is a gift for our general purposes, to be used at the discretion of our governing board of directors. A gift like this—without conditions attached—is frequently the most useful, as it allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.
- **Restricted bequest** - This type of gift allows you to specify how the funds are to be used. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If so, it's best to consult with us before you make your bequest to be certain your intent can be carried out.
- **Endowed bequest** - This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only the investment income they generate, or other similar formula. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.

Stating in your will or other estate document that you elect to set aside a designated portion of your estate for the McHenry County Conservation Foundation allows you to impact conservation far into the future. Simply list the following information in your estate document: McHenry County Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 1108, Woodstock, IL 60098 USA.

## **Life Estate Agreement**

Entering into a Life Estate Agreement is another way to donate land or a residence for those donors who want to continue to enjoy and use their property throughout their life. While the actual transfer of the future interest in the property is made to

the Foundation now, you may continue to live in the home or on the property for the rest of your life. A substantial income tax deduction may be allowed.

### **Stock Donations**

Donations of stock can also be accepted by the McHenry County Conservation Foundation. This type of donation has the added advantage of saving the donor capital gains tax.

### **Gift of Life Insurance Policy**

A gift of a life insurance policy is an excellent method to make a larger contribution than you could otherwise provide with an outright gift of cash or stock during your lifetime. If you own a life insurance policy and the original beneficiary no longer needs the protection, the policy may be transferred to the Foundation as both owner and beneficiary. By doing so you are then entitled to an income tax deduction for the lower of the policy's value or your cost basis in it at the time of the transfer. If you continue to pay the premiums on the policy, they are also deductible.

### **Giving IRAs or other Retirement Plans**

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), company-sponsored pension and profit-sharing plans, and other methods of saving for retirement may be appealing sources for charitable gifts. If you are over age 59 ½ and find that you have more than adequate resources set aside for retirement, you may choose to use a portion of your retirement funds to make charitable gifts which may reduce your estate and income taxes.

### **Charitable Gift Annuities**

Through a charitable gift annuity, you can make a gift to the Foundation and receive fixed annual payments as well as income and estate tax benefits. A gift annuity is a simple, contractual agreement between a donor and the McHenry County Conservation Foundation in which you give assets to us in exchange for our promise to pay you a fixed sum for life.

### **Charitable Remainder Trusts**

When you create a charitable remainder trust, you give money, securities or other assets to a trust you create that will then pay you an income for life or for a period of years (not to exceed 20). If you wish, the trust also can pay an income to other beneficiaries of your choice. At the death of the final beneficiary, the remaining balance in the trust goes to the Foundation.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these giving options, please contact us at 815-759-9390.

Please remember:

- Always consult with your own financial and legal assistance.
- Consult with the McHenry County Conservation Foundation in advance before executing a will or living trust. We want to be certain that we understand your goals and can provide the correct technical details for easements to your advisor or attorney.

Every gift is important and helps to sustain the McHenry County Conservation Foundation's mission. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

The McHenry County Conservation Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of applicable tax regulations. Advice from your tax and legal advisors is recommended.