

Seed the Future Society

GIFTS TO FRIENDS OF TREES THROUGH A WILL OR LIVING TRUST

Naming Friends of Trees (FOT) as a beneficiary of your will or living trust will provide greatly needed support for FOT's tree planting projects in the future. While these gifts do not involve any immediate transfer of cash or property, they do call for careful planning with the help of an attorney. Of course, you'll want to provide first for those individuals closest to you, but you may also wish to perpetuate your support of organizations like FOT through a gift of this type. Bequests through wills and living trusts are revocable—that is, you may change or revoke them at any time. Any charitable bequest is generally excluded from your estate for estate tax purposes.

TYPES OF BEQUESTS

There are several ways to make a bequest to FOT through your will or trust:

- An explicit bequest of an amount of money or specific assets (stocks, etc.);
- A percentage bequest listing the percentage of your estate that you wish to leave to FOT;
- A residual bequest of the remainder of your estate or a percentage of the remainder after you have made your specific bequest(s);
- A contingent bequest naming FOT as the recipient should another beneficiary not survive you; or
- A life income bequest whereby after your death, income is paid to another individual for his/her lifetime; after that, the principal will go to FOT. (This type of bequest is often set up to provide for elderly parents, family members, or friends in special circumstances.)

SUGGESTED BEQUEST LANGUAGE

Whichever type of bequest you choose, FOT's Board of Directors suggests that you use the following language in order to avoid any confusion: "I give _____ (specific amount, percentage, or residue) to Friends of Trees ("FOT"), having its principal offices at 3117 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (Tax ID Number: 93-0999999). FOT shall use this gift for its general purposes to plant and care for trees." Gifts earmarked for FOT's general purposes allow FOT to use the funds where they are most needed. A bequest to FOT that is not restricted to funding a specific project gives FOT the flexibility to fund projects as emergencies arise or as priorities change over the years. You may choose, however, to restrict your bequest to a specific area of FOT's work. Please contact Emma Gray at Friends of Trees (503-282-8846 ext. 31) for advice if you wish to restrict your bequest. Many people include FOT in their will, trust, or other estate plan and never give us the opportunity to recognize their generous intention. While it is certainly your prerogative, we encourage you to share this information with FOT so we can thank you and officially recognize your commitment. Your plans will be held in confidence, and you may remain anonymous if you prefer.

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