



LEGACY NEWS

Estate Planning & Financial News for Friends of Guide Dogs for the Blind

WINTER 2020

DAUGHTER'S INDEPENDENCE LEADS TO GIFT

Fred George and his wife, Marice, had a very special motivation to include Guide Dogs for the Blind in their estate plan.

As Fred explains, “My daughter has had five guide dogs from the school all at no cost to our family. When you add up the investment GDB has made in my daughter’s life, it is probably hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last 28 years. Leaving a provision in our trust to benefit Guide Dogs for the Blind seemed like such an easy thing to do when you consider how much the program has benefited Maile.” Fred and Marice are proud members of our Legacy Society which honors donors who include GDB in their estate plans.

Fred credits Guide Dogs for the Blind with “saving Maile’s life” and getting her back in the mainstream. Maile was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 11 and lost her sight at 24. A woman in Fred’s town had a guide dog and strongly encouraged Maile to get one. Maile received her first guide, *Egan*, in 1982 and has not looked back. Shortly



Fred George and Newton

after graduating with her first guide she secured a full time job at Bank of America and also got married. “She became very independent,” Fred said.

For those interested in leaving a bequest to GDB, Fred has two pieces of advice. First, find a competent and experienced estate planning attorney who can effectuate your

wishes. Second, if you choose Guide Dogs for the Blind as a program to benefit, get involved if you can. “You’ll be a much bigger fan,” says Fred, who has been a volunteer docent on GDB’s California campus since 1998. He loves meeting and speaking to new people, so combined with his passion for GDB, it has been a great fit. “There is so much to learn here and so many volunteer opportunities.”

At 87, Fred George shows no signs of slowing down. We hope he’ll be leading campus tours for many years to come and continuing to inspire others to support GDB!

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SUPPORTING GDB WITH YOUR LONG-RANGE PLANS

If you want to make Guide Dogs for the Blind part of your legacy, we thank you. There are several straightforward ways to accomplish this.

GIVING THROUGH YOUR WILL OR TRUST

You can leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to Guide Dogs for the Blind in your will or living trust. You can also make GDB a contingent or back-up beneficiary if the family member(s) or others named in your plans predecease you.

BALANCING CHARITABLE GIFTS WITH FAMILY PRIORITIES

Your attorney can include language in your will or other plans that leaves the “residue” (or remainder) of your estate to Guide Dogs for the Blind after friends and family have received their share. Some types of charitable gifts can even enhance their financial security.

WAYS TO GIVE OUTSIDE OF YOUR WILL

Your will is not the only tool in your estate plans you can use to make a gift. Other ways include:

- **Life insurance.** You can name Guide Dogs for the Blind as a final beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or even give the policy now if it is no longer needed for its original purpose.
- **Retirement plans.** It’s easy to include GDB as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) assets through a “beneficiary designation form” that you can obtain from your plan administrator or find on their website. By leaving other assets to your heirs instead, they will not have to pay income tax on your bequest.
- **Checking, savings, or investment accounts.** Guide Dogs for the Blind can receive all or a portion of these assets through a “pay on death” provision you arrange with the financial institution.

An attractive feature of all these plans? None is a permanent designation; you can arrange your “gift of a lifetime” knowing it can be changed at your discretion.



The purpose of this publication is solely educational, namely to provide general gift, estate, financial planning and related information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice, and you should not rely on it as such. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate and qualified advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Consult a tax and/or accounting specialist for advice regarding tax and accounting related matters. © Copyright 2020 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NXXX-20

NINE STEPS TO AN EFFECTIVE ESTATE PLAN

Having a proper will and other estate plans in place can be one of the most satisfying accomplishments of your life. Your wishes should be expressed clearly and concisely, leaving no room for confusion. These steps can help you gain control of the planning process.

1. List the people (friends, family, other loved ones) and charities—like Guide Dogs for the Blind—you want to remember.
2. List the property you own, including real estate, savings, investments, retirement accounts, and insurance policies.
3. Match your assets with the people and organizations you'd like to give them to.
4. Appoint a guardian for any minor children.
5. Name an executor (or personal representative) to manage the estate settlement process.

6. Make an appointment with your attorney.
7. Work with your attorney to plan for the possibility of incapacity.
8. Have a valid, up-to-date will and/or living trust prepared and sign it promptly.
9. Review the beneficiary designations for your life insurance policies, retirement plans, and bank accounts.

The small amount of time it takes to create an estate plan may seem even less when you consider the peace of mind that comes from knowing you have established your legacy for the future.

We are grateful for your support as you consider the charitable dimension of your plans.

If you are considering making a gift to Guide Dogs for the Blind through your estate...

...we sincerely thank you and would like to welcome you to the Legacy Society. You can share this information with your legal counsel:

Our Federal Tax I.D. Number:
94-1196195

Bequest Language*:

"I give \$_____ (or ___ % of the residue** of my estate [or trust]) to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. of San Rafael, California, for its general purposes."

* Canadian Residents: please contact us for language and identification information specific to Canada.

**"Residue" refers to what remains after specific bequests, taxes, settlement costs and debts are satisfied.





**Guide Dogs
for the Blind**

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*Harnessing the power of
partnership—connecting
people and guide dogs,
at no cost.*

guidedogs.com/planned-giving



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GIFTS THAT BEGIN AT HOME

Many people don't immediately think of real estate when they consider making a charitable gift, but a home or other property can make an appealing, tax-favored gift.

Using real estate, such as your house, farm, or commercial property, to fund a charitable gift allows you to preserve your cash assets, receive significant tax and income advantages, and perhaps to make a larger gift than you thought possible.

Fund a gift today—If you own property that is fully paid off and has appreciated in value, an outright gift may be the simplest solution. You can deduct the property's full current value, avoid capital gains tax on any increase in value, and remove that asset from your taxable estate.

Give a home, receive an income—There are a number of ways to make gifts of homes and other real estate that provide income for your lifetime and/or that of a loved one. Giving in this way may be an especially appealing option to those who own real estate that currently yields no immediate financial benefit.

A gift to live in—With a gift plan called a retained life estate you can transfer the deed of your primary residence, vacation home, or farm to GDB now and keep the right to use the property for your lifetime and/or another person's. You are still responsible for taxes and upkeep, but you will receive an immediate tax deduction for the eventual charitable gift. The home will also pass outside probate.