

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I consider leaving a Jewish legacy?

Just as you have provided for your children, families, and those who mean the most to you in your estate plans, LIFE & LEGACY® encourages you to consider leaving a gift to the Jewish community in your will and estate plans. Consider the institutions and causes you support now. What motivates you to give your money and time?

Picture your Jewish community decades from now. What would you hope to see in the future?

Through your legacy, you can ensure that the organizations you care about are able to thrive in perpetuity, and the issues you are most concerned with will continue to be addressed.

How do I leave a gift for a particular charitable organization or cause?

You may arrange for a gift in several ways, the most common being through a charitable gift in a will or living trust. Many people set aside a certain dollar amount as their legacy. Others leave a percentage of their estate or any assets left over after they have provided for their family. Visit www.jewishfedny.org/life-and-legacy to learn more about the many ways to leave a legacy.

Do I need to have a great deal of wealth to leave a legacy gift?

No. Everyone can leave a legacy. Gifts of any amount are most appreciated and will have a lasting impact in shaping our Jewish community. You may even leave gifts of real estate or other personal property.

I want to leave a Jewish legacy. To whom may I leave it?

All qualified, charitable institutions are appropriate beneficiaries. Organizations you have supported in your life are natural choices.

You also may wish to focus on general areas of interests, such as:

- Caring for the elderly
- Educating our community's children
- Scholarships to engage Jewish youth
- Fighting anti-Semitism

- Advancing Jewish life and continuity
- Jewish summer-camp and day-camp experiences
- Synagogue life
- College campus programs
- Support for Israel and overseas communities and programs

Help keep the Jewish community strong by including your synagogue, Jewish day school, Jewish Federation, or any of our other legacy partners in your will or estate plan. Federation and our legacy partners will work with you to tailor legacy gifts that match your philanthropic goals and values.

Must I tell the organization(s) that I am leaving a gift to it?

That is up to you. We as a community would like to recognize you for your generosity and include your commitment as part of the collective success of our LIFE & LEGACY® program. You would also serve as an inspiration and role model to others. Regardless of what you decide, your wishes will always be honored.

How can I invite my children into the process?

There are many ways to include your family in this discussion. Some suggestions:

- Initiate a family discussion about your charitable giving and values.
- Invite your family to a meeting with your professional advisor or a Federation professional.
- Together, visit the institutions and programs you are committed to supporting.
- Listen to and acknowledge your family's concerns.

How can I get started?

Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York is here to work with you and your professional advisors in structuring and documenting a legacy plan that is meaningful to you. Simply contact us or one of our LIFE & LEGACY® partners for a confidential, no-obligation meeting. We look forward to working with you to make your philanthropic dreams a reality.