

# Giving Through Your Estate



WHEATON  
COLLEGE  
*For Christ & His Kingdom*



## Bequest Gifts to Wheaton

Would you consider an estate tithe to Wheaton through a bequest? Wheaton's ministry has continued for generations due to the generosity of faithful supporters' bequests. You can give to Wheaton at your death through your will, revocable trust, or beneficiary designations of your retirement assets, life insurance policy, or investment accounts. In doing so, you can create a legacy to impact the future of Wheaton's ministry, create an endowment to continue your giving to Wheaton, and possibly decrease income or estate taxes, all while retaining control and benefit of your assets during your life.

## Designation of Your Bequest

Though undesignated bequests provide ultimate flexibility to address timely needs, Wheaton also welcomes your *designated* bequest for a specific aspect of the College's ministry that is important to you. If possible, discuss your bequest with us (particularly endowed scholarships) to ensure a smooth implementation of your objectives.

## Bequest Language for Will or Revocable Trust

A traditional way to remember Wheaton in an estate plan is through a designation in a will or revocable trust as a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of the total estate. Here are examples of bequest language:

- **Specific dollar amount:** "I hereby give the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Wheaton College, located in Wheaton, Illinois."
- **Specific percentage of estate:** "I hereby give \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate (or "my trust assets" if using a trust) to Wheaton College, located in Wheaton, Illinois."

## Building a Legacy

We encourage you share with us about your bequest, and we can provide you with a simple form to accomplish this purpose. Not only is this an encouragement to us, but having knowledge of the aggregate value of planned bequests allows us to thoughtfully plan for the future. Any individual information you share with us is kept confidential.

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## Other Ways to Make an Estate Gift

- **Retirement Accounts** – Naming Wheaton as the designated or contingent beneficiary of retirement plan assets avoids possible income or estate taxes, thus efficiently preserving more of the asset for the support of the College’s ministry. Retirement assets can also be used to fund a **Wheaton College charitable remainder trust** - an attractive way to avoid income tax consequences when assets are distributed to the trust, provide income to family after your death, and provide a significant gift to Wheaton College.
- **Insurance Policies** – Designating Wheaton as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy is another way to make a significant gift to further Wheaton’s ministry.
- **Payable on Death or Transfer on Death Designations** – Bank and investment accounts, mutual funds, and specific securities can be gifted to Wheaton through a payable on death or transfer on death designation. Your bank, broker, or other custodian of the assets can provide you with forms to provide for direct transfer to Wheaton College at your death.
- **Real Estate Transfer-on-Death Deed** – Many states provide the opportunity to name a revocable beneficiary in your real estate transfer-on-death deed. If recorded during life, the title passes (whole or in a percentage) directly to Wheaton at your death.

## Estate Analysis Services

If you intend to remember Wheaton College through your estate plan, we offer a free, no-obligation, customized analysis of your estate plan. Your attorney is your guide and advisor regarding your estate plans. Our analysis may help to educate and prepare you for a thoughtful, informed, and productive review of your estate planning goals and objectives with your attorney.



“When we started legacy planning, we immediately thought of Wheaton College and the impact it had and continues to have on our lives. We wanted an estate plan that combined our faith journeys, stewardship goals, and a tithing component. Wheaton’s commitment to providing a residence-based education linking the Christian faith narrative with a commitment to scholarship made it a worthy recipient in our view. We discovered that legacy planning was a joy-filled journey for us, and the Wheaton College Advancement Office helped us all along the way .”

*Jim '69 and Melissa Beitler*

*The above information is provided for informational purposes and is not intended as legal or financial advice. Any suggestions should only be implemented with the advice of your attorney or other qualified advisor.*