

Legacy Giving at Temple Sinai

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Legacy (Planned) Giving?

A. Legacy giving also known as planned giving usually defines a wide variety of giving options that allow you to support Temple Sinai and other charitable organizations during your lifetime and/or after your death, while meeting your current income needs and providing for your heirs. Legacy gifts include simple bequests, retirement fund or insurance policy beneficiary designations, charitable remainder or lead trusts, and non-cash gifts such as real estate. Depending on the value of your estate and the laws in place at the time of your death, a bequest or other legacy gift may reduce your estate's taxable assessment for your heirs. Some giving methods are more valuable than others to achieve your personal financial objectives, so it is important to consult your attorney or tax advisor.

Q. How does a legacy gift tie into estate planning?

A. Legacy giving is typically done in combination with estate planning, and is a viable option for donors of all income levels. The donor typically consults with his/her attorney, financial advisor, and/or accountant to arrive at the planned gift that works to maximize advantage.

Q. How can a legacy gift help Temple Sinai and me at the same time?

A. Legacy giving is attractive for many reasons. It may allow you to make larger gifts than you otherwise could consider out of your current assets. Depending on how a gift is set up, it may also give you a stream of income for life or reduce your capital gains, income, or estate taxes. Legacy gifts often appeal to people who would like to make a significant gift but feel that they need to retain control of their assets or receive income during their lifetimes.

Q. Why should I give to Temple Sinai?

A. Temple Sinai plays an integral role in Jewish life on the area and most likely has played an important role in your personal life and your family's special moments. Temple Sinai serves its members in ways that only a synagogue can, from birth to death. Here at Temple Sinai we are committed to providing outstanding Jewish education, worship and spirituality, and meaningful and innovative programs and services for people of all ages. Ensuring the financial stability of the congregation will help guarantee that Temple Sinai will be the focal point of local Jewish life for generations to come.

Q. How do I make a bequest?

A. A bequest to Temple Sinai made through your will or codicil document, trust or trust amendment should specify Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd., Rochester, NY 14625

Q. What is suggested bequest language?

A. I give to the General Endowment of Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd., Rochester, NY 14625, the sum of \$ _____ [or _____% of] [or describe the property].

Q. What is the easiest way to make a legacy gift to Temple Sinai?

A. Naming Temple Sinai as a full or partial beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement fund is an easy, no-cost way to make a gift that supports Temple Sinai while providing substantial tax advantages. This is because funds in a retirement account can be subject to both estate tax and income tax, meaning 60-70% of your funds could end up going to government entities. Giving funds from the account directly to Temple Sinai bypasses any taxation, making it more sensible to leave other assets with smaller tax burdens to your family. To name a charitable beneficiary to your retirement account, contact your HR professional or the holder of the account.

Q. What is a charitable remainder trust (CRT)?

A. A charitable remainder trust is a sophisticated tax-approved trust that provides a gift in an irrevocable trust to pay a percentage annual return to the donor and commonly, the donor's spouse, for life. It can be for a designated number of years, not to exceed twenty, or for the lifetime of the donors. Charitable remainder trusts are complex and require careful analysis and discussion with the donor's legal advisor. A common asset used to fund a charitable remainder trust is appreciated real estate where the donor desires to contribute the real estate without recognizing the capital gain. Other appreciated assets are also advantageous. Charitable remainder trusts are tax exempt entities and the gain is not recognized by the trust at the time of sale. That gain is taxable over the term of the receipts by the donor through a formula established by the Internal Revenue Service code.

Q. What is a life settlement arrangement?

A. Many people don't realize the significance of the asset that is in their old life insurance policies. A policy may no longer serve the need it was intended for. Life settlement is the practice of selling life insurance policies, including term policies, for a fair market value (many times well more than the cash value of the policy) as a means to generate cash for themselves (the insured) and possibly, create a tax-deductible donation for Temple Sinai.

Q. If I make a legacy gift, where do my dollars go?

A. While legacy gifts may be designated to most named funds or specific programs of the congregation, we encourage our members to

designate bequests and other legacy gifts to the General Endowment. This will guarantee that your gift continues to support our community in perpetuity, while allowing future leadership the funds that are the most flexible for congregational programs well into the future. Unless otherwise designated, all gifts of \$5,000 or more will automatically be directed to the endowment.

Q. Can I give stock or any other assets besides cash?

A. Stock and cash are the most common gifts to the congregation, but gifts can also include real estate and personal property of your choice.