



Planned Giving Fact Sheet

Q: How do I get started with planning an estate gift for Fox Valley Hands of Hope?

A: Effective estate planning starts with a good attorney who will assist you in drawing up a plan that will ensure that your wish to make a difference is met. A plan will also allow your family to avoid the delay, dissension and needless expense that often occurs when a loved one passes away without a will. Because in that scenario property and finances are settled according to the state's decisions, despite the family's wishes.

Q: Can an "average" person leave a legacy?

A: Definitely! Most people leave an estate when they die, even though they may not have a great deal of wealth. It's a wonderful way to make a lasting difference. Bequests are one of the simplest forms of planned giving, and are a way to perpetuate your lifetime commitment to the care of persons with life threatening illnesses and the bereaved. With a bequest, you can make a gift that you may not have afforded in cash during your lifetime.

Q: Is it important to designate specific instructions in my will?

A: To ensure that your gift comes to Fox Valley Hands of Hope, you should state your intentions in your will.

Q: Can funds from a retirement plan or IRA be part of a bequest?

A: Yes - and the number of estates containing IRAs and retirement plan assets are growing. They are an attractive source of charitable bequests, because Fox Valley Hands of Hope can receive the funds with no tax liability and therefore can apply 100% of those assets to help our clients. By contrast, family members who inherit IRAs and retirement plan assets must pay income tax on them. By the time taxes are paid, some family members can receive as little as 15% of the retirement account. Simply name Fox Valley Hands of Hope as the beneficiary to your IRA and the funds will come directly to us.

Q: Is it possible to make a gift for a specified purpose?

A: Yes! Fox Valley Hands of Hope puts every gift to work for our clients, but if you have a fondness for a particular program such as hospice, children's bereavement, or volunteer training, we would be delighted to apply your gift to a specific purpose. We'd be happy to discuss your special wishes.

Q: Should I tell Fox Valley Hands of Hope about my estate plans?

A: Absolutely! It is incredibly helpful to our staff to be able to plan for the future of our programs. If you have included Fox Valley Hands of Hope in your estate plans, please let us know! We'd love to be able to thank you during your lifetime.

If you have ANY questions at all, please don't hesitate to call Greg Weider, Executive Director, at 630-232-2233 ext. 212 or gweider@fvhh.net, or Kathy Melone, Director of Development at 630-232-2233 ext. 221 or kmelone@fvhh.net.

*No part of this information is intended as legal advice. Please consult with competent tax and legal professionals to determine the best giving strategies for your situation.