

Legacy Giving: Ways to Give

To celebrate the generosity of donors who make our mission to reveal God's healing presence a reality, SSM Health offers several legacy societies. In reality, many of us never get around to it. Most estimates show that half of all Americans die without a will, and that means the state in which you live will dictate how your assets and properties are distributed.

Our Legacy Societies recognize bequests of any amount.

This popular method of giving enables you to support SSM Health in ways that may not be possible through lifetime gifts. Giving through your estate plan generates a charitable estate-tax deduction and may result in substantial tax savings. More importantly, a gift after your lifetime enables you to satisfy your charitable wishes which may not have been possible during your lifetime. Distributing your assets after your lifetime is called estate settlement. Estate planning helps you decide in advance how you want to plan your legacy.

Examples of assets that can be given through beneficiary designations, wills and/or trusts:

- Bank or brokerage accounts
- Retirement plan and IRA assets
- Real estate
- Life insurance
- Annuities
- Savings Bonds
- Personal property

Perhaps a better term for estate planning is life planning or in-case-of-emergency planning. When you do not plan your estate, you are taking a risk by not having your paperwork in order and others will make the decisions regarding the direction of your life assets, costing your asset hard-earned value.

SSM Health reminds you to take the first step in planning your estate by creating or updating your will and trust. These are the most important legal documents you can own, and with the help of a good estate planning attorney, it may be easier to set up than you think. Contact us to get started and work with your estate planning attorney regarding your will/trust.