

Leaving a Gift in Your Will

A way to be remembered by your community



New Website Helps Answer Your Questions about Legacy Giving

When it comes time to write or update your Will, you may think about the opportunity to leave a gift to one of your favourite charities. However, do you know how? Do you feel confident knowing the impact your gift may have?

One group that was designed to help you answer those questions is Legacy Giving Thunder Bay.

Formed in 2010 by 5 local charities, Legacy Giving Thunder Bay's goal was to get people to start thinking about leaving a gift in their Will to their favourite local charities. The group has grown and is now comprised of members from six partner organizations – the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, St. Joseph's Foundation, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, Confederation College and The George Jeffrey Children's Foundation.

"We're hoping people will think about making a gift in their Will so future generations have access to exceptional healthcare, outstanding education and supportive social services, in our community," said Terri Hrkac, Sr. Director, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. "That's why our organizations joined together to form Legacy Giving Thunder Bay – we want to educate and inspire people on the benefits of legacy giving."

Legacy Giving Thunder Bay is specifically able to help you when you may think:

"I want to make a gift in my Will, but I don't know how." or

"I'm not sure how to proceed, but I don't want to ask a charity specifically."

Recently, the group updated its website to help you access information in an even easier way.

They invite you to view it now at:
legacygivingthunderbay.com



More About Legacy Giving Thunder Bay

There are multiple options when it comes to making a legacy gift, and Legacy Giving Thunder Bay encourages people to speak with their lawyers or financial planners to determine what's right for them. "I also think it's important that the donor speak with the organization(s) where they wish to designate their gift(s)," said Gail Brescia, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Foundation "When donors are able to speak with us, we can help them decide, exactly, how they wish to designate their gift so that it reflects their beliefs and passions."

"Additionally, when donors let us know their intentions, we can better thank and honour them in their lifetime," added Brescia. "We have the very trusted role of ensuring that a person's life or family's history is preserved through this gift, and when we can talk with them in advance, we can provide the reassurance that their gift will be used exactly as they envision."

"For our community to advance, legacy gifts are critical, and each of us takes our responsibility very seriously

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CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

With Fall comes another school year for Confederation College and our students. However, as we all know, this year has been like no other. While we welcome our new and returning students this Fall, we know they will face challenges that the global pandemic has presented to us all.

Despite this, we are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring our students have the most positive and safe experience within the constraints we all face. Our College has rallied around our students to provide the required supports and resources they need to be successful this semester and beyond.

We have been witness to the exceptional effort and commitment of our faculty and staff as they strive to provide our students with an exceptional academic experience. In a very brief time-frame the Confederation College team fundamentally changed everything we do – from educating our students, to supporting labs and placements, as well as maintaining essential business operations.

We thank our donors for their support and continued commitment as we work together to carry out the vision and mission of Confederation College – changing lives through learning. We are part of a community that cares and for that we thank you!



NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Join the NOSM Challenge 2025:

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) revealed its new strategic plan called the The NOSM Challenge 2025 with a renewed mission to improve the health of Northern Ontarians by being socially accountable in its education and research programs and by advocating for health equity. The future of health in the North of Ontario depends on NOSM playing a key role in the transformation of health education, research and care in the North.

“NOSM has achieved many milestones since it officially opened its doors 15 years ago, and we have just begun to garner impact as Canada’s newest medical school. It’s time to build on our past and pivot for the future in health professions and medical education. We must train the physicians of the future so they can work in an increasingly uncertain and volatile world.”

– Dr. Sarita Verma, Dean, President & CEO

Help the Northern Ontario School of Medicine continue to improve access to quality health care in our community by donating to our scholarships and bursaries program.

To learn more about how you can support the next generation of doctors for the north, please contact us at 807-766-7424 or visit nosm.ca/give.

Join us in meeting the Challenge.



GEORGE JEFFREY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

We are pleased to say that as of June 29, George Jeffrey Children's Centre gradually began opening its doors with limited access. To allow for physical distancing and new safety guidelines, all in-person visits are by appointment only. Our new reality but great news that George Jeffrey Children's Centre can again begin to provide in-centre care for our children with communication, physical and developmental needs.

Generous donors through the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation have a direct impact on the care that our children receive. Because of a generous gift from the Ames Family Foundation, the Centre is now equipped with a new interactive panel housed in the Snoezelen Room (the Centre's multi-sensory room).

The new panel combines touch and sound technology to encourage focus and interaction, target several senses at the same time, and provide the opportunity to engage in fun activities in a relaxed environment!

More News! The Board of George Jeffrey Children's Foundation is pleased to announce Cindy Levanto-Kawahara as the new Executive Director of George Jeffrey Children's Foundation. She replaces Steve MacDonald who returned home to Southern Ontario.

For information on how to support GJCF contact Cindy at 807-625-6050.



ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION

No matter what language you speak, saying thank you speaks to our heart. On behalf of St. Joseph's Foundation of Thunder Bay and from the bottom of our hearts we would like to say Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch for your support over the past year.

Your donations to the "Picture is Worth a 1000 Words" Diagnostic Imaging campaign provided the funds to purchase a new ultrasound machine and retrofit our existing x-ray equipment. You helped us provide staff with reliable equipment to better serve our clients, Thank you!

Your purchase of Big Split 26, Grand a Day and Nevada lottery tickets provided the funds to purchase equipment for the continuous comfort and safety of our clients. This includes portable vital sign machines, blanket warmers, portable ultrasound machine, and so much more. You helped us improve the quality of care for our clients, Merci!

Your thoughtful gifts in memory of loved ones and friends provided the funds to support the continued compassionate care and quality of life for physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and cultural needs. You helped us deliver client-centered care, Miigwetch!

The 2020 Impact Report can be found online at sjftb.net.

Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch!



THUNDER BAY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Emergency Community Support Fund, a partnership of the TBCF and the United Way of Thunder Bay, has provided over \$1.3M in grants to date to organizations around the city. In the first round of funding, over 20 local charities received funding for various projects that ranged from food security programs to building/technology upgrades.

Grace Place Thunder Bay was one of the many local charities that received a grant of \$11,983.50 through the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF).

With increased COVID-19 barriers in place, they can move back to indoor serving with increased safety. They have also been able to offer those in our community a Day Shelter. With the added funding, Grace Place has been able to offer 3 meals 4x a week for clients. During this time, clients can access a hot shower, a free haircut, and a mat to sleep during the day.

In October 2020, TBCF announced a second round of the ECSF. A total of \$318,533 is being distributed through the second round to support organizations in Thunder Bay and the district areas.

Charities and non-profit organizations have been providing essential services and programs since the pandemic was first declared. This emergency support for their work is vital, as is longer-term support so they can be around to help see our communities through the recovery from COVID-19.



THUNDER BAY REGIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES FOUNDATION

From milking cows as a child, to helping her family farm chickens, and then, later, finding a passion for gardening and flowers, Isabel Webster's life was one that will always be remembered by those who knew her. And now, thanks to her decision to make a gift in her Will of \$1,025,128 to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, her impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

Isabel expressed her desire of how she wanted her estate to be used. "She wanted it to go to a worthy cause; one that would make good use of it," recalled Effie Rempel, Isabel's cousin and co-executor of her estate. "She was extremely particular," commented George, Effie's husband, "and wanted things just right." He recalled having to dig up some of the 500 gladiolus bulbs he had planted to replant them one-quarter inch deeper, since they weren't up to Isabel's standard. "So I can say it was with a lot of thought and trust that she made this donation," he added.

Isabel's gift will be used to create the Isabel Webster Endowment Fund, from which funds will support the Cardiovascular Surgery Program at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. She was keen to leave a donation to the city where she spent her entire life, to fund a program that could continue to care for people.

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when we meet with donors to determine how their gift will play a role in our future,” said Alexandra Calderon, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Community Foundation. “We find that once donors become more aware of the impact and ease of leaving a gift in their Will, they frequently wish to give to several charities. Our group is very keen on working together to ensure that donors in our community are well-informed about the options they have when choosing where to assign their gift, and I think it’s important that donors are aware that we’re working collaboratively. There’s no competition between us as charities because we know it’s the overall spirit of philanthropy that makes a community great and we want to encourage that specifically.”

“Conversations about legacy giving aren’t always the easiest to have,” added Hrkac, “but I think people can feel more comfortable knowing there’s a group in our community who are presenting this information in a way that highlights the importance of legacy gifts, without pressure for a gift to any one particular organization. We truly want to work together, with donors, to better services in Thunder Bay – and we’re proud of the work we do collectively.”



COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Confederation College
- George Jeffrey Children’s Foundation
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- St. Joseph’s Foundation of Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay Community Foundation
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation

legacygivingthunderbay.com

Why People Don’t Leave A Gift In Their Will: Some Common Myths

Your Will can be a powerful tool for creating change in your community. By leaving a gift in your Will to a charity you are passionate about, you can have a much bigger impact than you can imagine. Unfortunately only 5% of Canadians take this step. Why? There are some common myths that typically get in the way of people making this decision.

I can’t support both loved ones and my favourite charity

Most people choose to leave everything they have to their family and loved ones. On the surface that makes sense. However, a careful calculation can demonstrate that a small percentage of your estate left to charity still leaves enough for you to support your loved ones.

The reality is that your estate will be taxed. Choosing to support the charities of your choice can reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the taxes to be paid. Your accountant or financial advisor can help navigate this for you.

I need to be wealthy to leave a gift in my Will

The majority of charitable gifts in Wills are left by Canadians of average means. You may be surprised to find that when all your assets are realized, you too will have enough for both your loved ones and your selected charities.

Leaving a Gift in my Will is complicated

Remembering a charity in your Will is an act that is generous, powerful and surprisingly simple. When meeting with your Lawyer to either draft or revise your Will, have the conversation about adding a charity to receive an amount or a percentage of your estate. Every gift in every Will makes a difference.

I will never see the impact of the gift I leave in my Will

It can be discouraging to think that you will not be around to see the impact of the gift you leave in your Will. You would rather do what you can now. Absolutely, however for most people, you will never be able to make as big a gift while you are alive as you can through your Will. Here are three ways you can see the impact your future gift will have.

- Many donors give smaller gifts to the causes they love when they’re alive. They become engaged with the charity so they get a feel for what the impact of their future gift will be – when they are able to give a much larger gift from their estate.
- By letting your charity know that you’ve included them in your Will, they will be able help you get a sense of the impact your future gift will have.
- Finally, a gift in your Will can help your family feel part on the impact you are making, as many charities involve the family in the implementation of the gift. Planning your gift now can be a comfort knowing your loved ones will have a meaningful way to remain connected with you and the charity that you were passionate about.