How to Market Bequests A Simple, Proven Plan

June 2018 | Tom Ahern

Harold Grinspoon Foundation Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

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30,000 feet

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How to DOUBLE your fundraising revenue

- Move 10% of your donors to monthly giving.
- Persuade about 3% of your donors to upgrade their giving to the \$500 level or higher.
- Get 5% of your donors to include you in their Wills.

Hilborn Charity eNEWS, via Future Fundraising Now, 2017

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The Plan

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How to market bequests (minimum)

- Make a list of anyone who's given 3 times or more.
- Create a Legacy Society (a special group to join and be honored by).
- Send your list a letter once a year, asking them to consider joining your Legacy Society by adding charity to their Wills.
- Repeat ad infinitum.

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Good news

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American Jews provide for charities in their wills nearly twice as much as people of other faiths, a new study shows.

Source: Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies, via Jewish News of Northern CA, 2013

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Forty-five percent of Jews who belong to Jewish organizations make charitable gifts in their wills, compared with 15 percent of Jews who don't affiliate, the study found.

Source: Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies, via Jewish News of Northern CA, 2013

Some 74 percent of Jews have wills, compared with 60 percent of non-Jews, according to the study.

Source: Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies, via Jewish News of Northern CA, 2013

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- (1) Most American Jews are charitable givers,
- (2) Most Jews who make charitable contributions give to both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations,
- (3) Engagement with Jewish community is a paramount driver of Jewish charitable giving and even drives giving to non-Jewish organizations,
- (4) As the income levels of American Jews rise, so do all measures of their charitable giving, and
- (5) Although age is not a driving factor in the incidence and amount of charitable giving overall, younger Jews clearly are less likely to give to Jewish organizations.

Source: Connected to Give: Key Findings (Gerstein, Cohen and Landres)

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Had your predecessor 10 years ago fired up a competent bequest marketing program, today your organization would be swimming in money.

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"I see so many small organizations on these never-ending event & grant treadmills...."

Source: Pam Grow, 2018, 20K Twitter followers

How bequests saved a charity...

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL	\$4,517,759	\$5,154,302	\$6,653,715	\$5,320,060	\$5,729,104	\$6,345,489
bequests	\$731,643	\$745,751	\$2,258,660	\$1,912,605	\$2,521,307	\$2,510,340
annual donors	21,846	21,017	19,872	17,508	16,893	15,484

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Had your predecessor 10 years ago fired up a competent bequest marketing program, today your organization would be swimming in money.

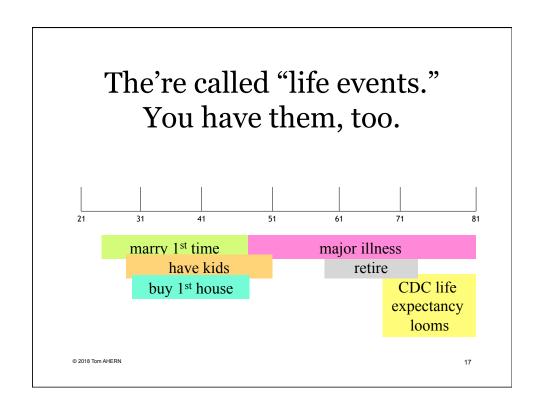
So, what's your excuse?

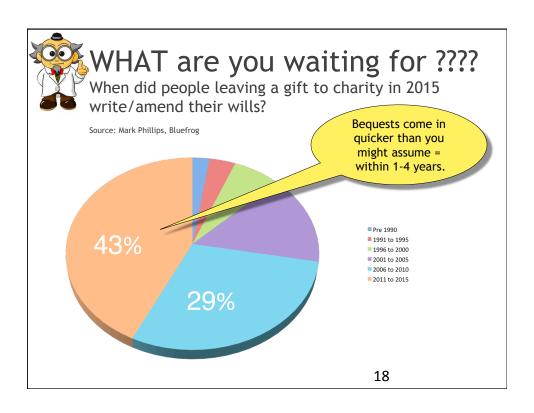
It takes one letter annually.

Put bequest marketing on your calendar for next week. Nothing happens until you start.

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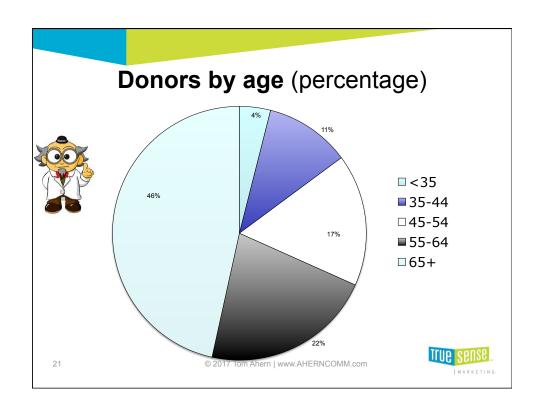
Soon, too

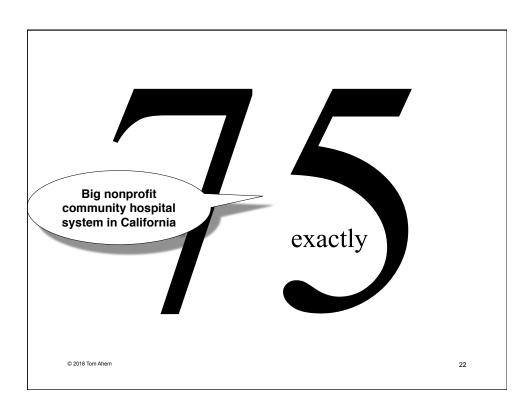


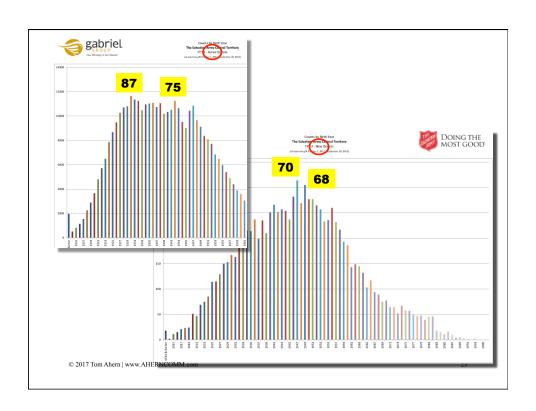


Donor who?











88% of dollars raised comes from 12% of the donors

~ Jay Love, Bloomerang, April 2017, via Pam Grow; translation: the "true believers" make the biggest difference

How do you start a miracle growing? You plant a gift in your will.

"Medical miracles" in children's health care ...

- ... those breathtaking advances that, when you first hear of them, seem almost impossible to believe ...
 - ... can often be traced back to just two things:
- 1. an idea in the right mind; and ...
- 2. enough philanthropic investment to transform that wonderful idea into a healing reality.

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There are several types of bequests that allow you to designate how your estate will be distributed.

Specific Bequest:

You describe exactly what you want to leave to a specific individual or organization and the designated source. If you want to leave a specific dollar amount from a specific source or a particular item (such as an antique or collector's item), this is the type of bequest that you would use.

Example: Kathryn states in her will: "I leave my diamond engagement ring to my granddaughter, Sarah. I also leave my securities to The Nature Conservancy."

General Bequest:

This type of bequest does not specify the source from which it should be paid. This gives your executor the flexibility to honor the bequest from any available source.

Example: Kathryn states in her will: "I leave \$50,000 to my son, William."

Residuary Bequest:

This type of bequest is honored after all other bequests have been made, and all debts, expenses and taxes have been paid.

Example: Kathryn states in her will: "I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my real and personal estate to The Nature Conservancy."

Contingent Bequest:

This type of bequest is fulfilled if certain conditions are met. For instance, if your primary beneficiary does not survive you, you can indicate your next choice through a contingent designation. Example: Kathryn states in her will: "I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my real and personal

Example: Kathryn states in her will: "I give all the rest, residue and remainder of my real and personal estate to my husband, John, if he survives me; if not, then 50 percent in equal shares to my children who survive me and 50 percent to The Nature Conservancy."

Source: The Nature Conservancy, 2018

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What's the prize?

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Comparisons of Lifetime Value

- LTV of a one-time donor (U lose \$): \$50/average?
- Gives same amount for 10 years (rare): \$500
- Converts to \$10/monthly gift for 10 years (takes work): around \$1,200
- Becomes a \$1,000/annual donor: around \$9,000
- Leaves a charitable bequest: \$50,000 or more

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"All but the biggest major gifts are chicken feed in comparison to legacies."

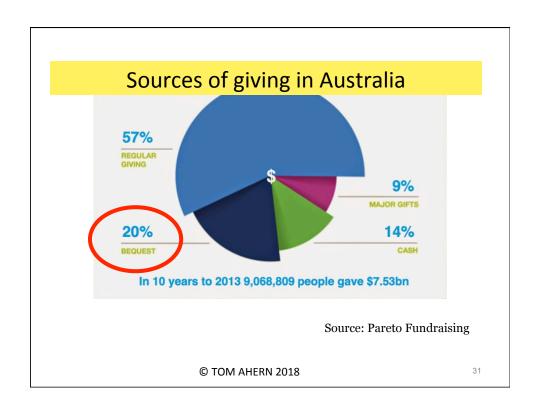
Stephen Pidgeon, How to Love Your Donors (to Death) (2014)

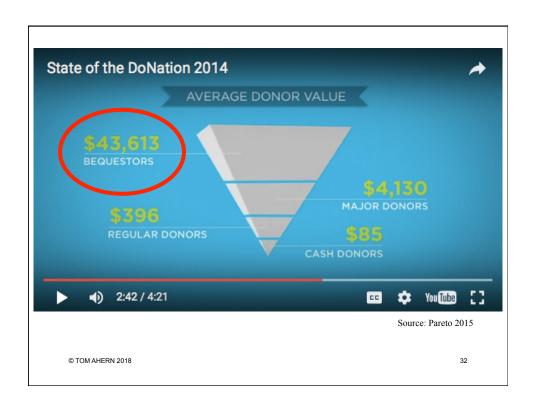
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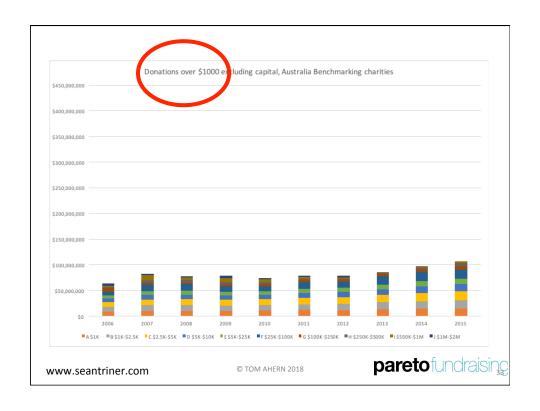
A bequest EXPLODES the lifetime value of a donor you already have!!!!

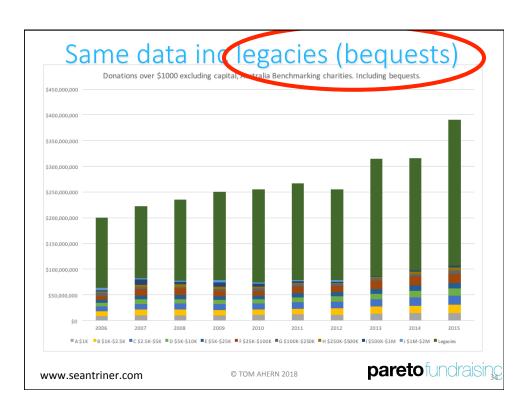
LTV: 10 years of \$50 gifts = \$500

Avg. US charitable bequest? \$37,000







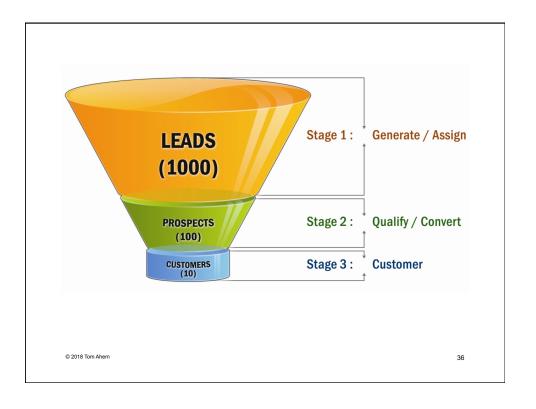


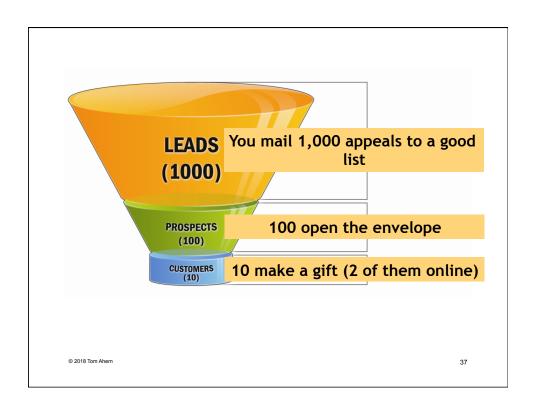
"Direct mail programs typically spend a dollar to make two or three dollars over the course of a year. Legacy marketing pays off at a ratio of 20 to one or better."

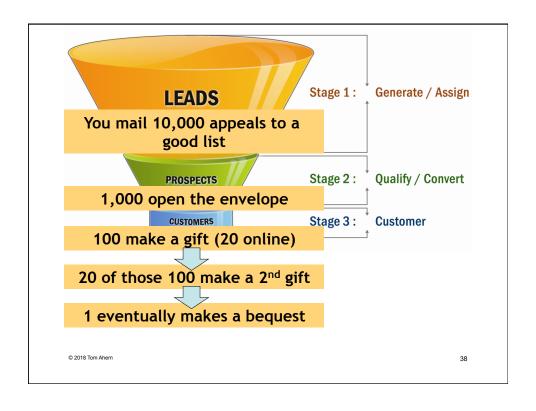
Underestimated, probably

Source: original research in Iceberg Philanthropy, 2007

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The rich are irrelevant. (Good to know.)

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...there is no correlation between either income or wealth with the likelihood of giving by bequest.

Source: Mal Warwick, quoting Robert F. Sharpe, Jr., around 2005

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[Bequest] marketing ... is about getting a small number of very large gifts from your 'average' donors. These are the donors who aren't on your radar screen already, who aren't interested in tea and banana bread with a planned giving officer, but who are very loyal to your cause.

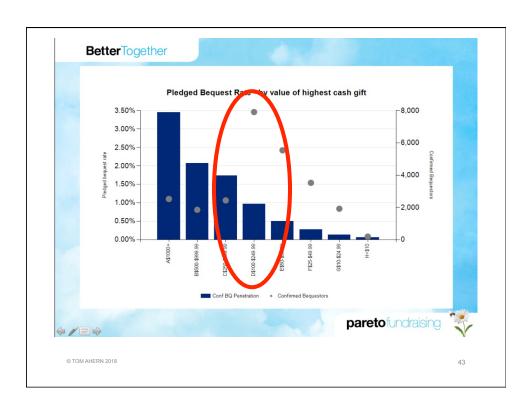
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It may seem counterintuitive, but actually, those with the greatest net worth are not normally your best or most likely prospects for a bequest.

You need to look for men and women who are long term and consistent donors. This is especially true of those who give four or more times a year, several hundred dollars a year. They are your very best prospects for a bequest.

The greatest percentage by far are bequests from men and women who leave estates of \$2 million or less.

Source: Jerry Panas, August 2016



"The ASPCA asked this question of its database: Who exactly leaves us bequests? The answer: donors who give often but not very much."

Kevin Schulman, DonorVoice webinar, Sept 2016

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Trending

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The strongest predictor of likelihood that someone will make a charitable bequest:

childlessness



Source: Russell James III, 2014

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In Australia, Germany, Italy and the US, the proportion of childlessness among women in their late 40s has doubled over the past three decades.

2012 Yale Center for the Study of Globalization

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Start a legacy society. (Why? Exclusivity trigger.)

RN 2018

Common emotional triggers used by copywriting pros in fundraising

Anger Greed

Duty Guilt

Exclusivity Hope

Fear Salvation

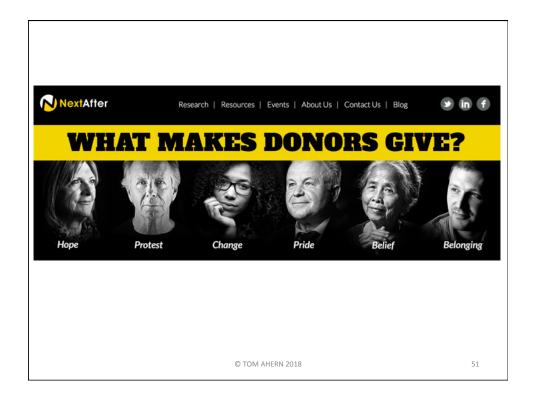
Flattery

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"You can't thank them when they're dead."







"Dr. Death," Richard Radcliffe



"A legacy is not a donation. It's an investment."

"Leave a legacy" is about perpetuating my values and my beliefs and my primal desire to matter ... at a price I can easily afford, because I'll be dead.

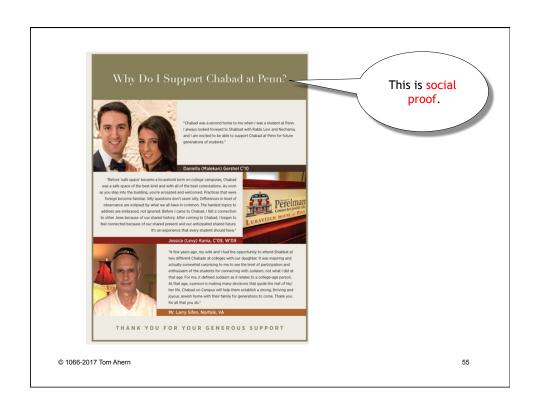
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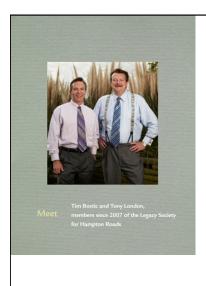
Start a legacy society. (Why? Social proof.)



Source: Russell James III, 2014

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What is "social proof"?

"Hey, look! People like me do things like that..."

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Editor: Sally Kirby Hartman

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WRITE YOUR

Where's the social proof?

Family Tree Legacy Circle

Whether your estate is large, modest or somewhere in-between, you can help ensure that JFS will not only meet the needs of our "family" today but will also be here tomorrow to assist our children and our children's children.

Legacy giving (sometimes called planned giving) strengthens the community that JFS serves and, in many instances, also provides you with tax advantages. It ensures that you will be remembered both by those who directly benefit from your generosity to JFS as well as those who will be inspired by your example as a member of our Family Tree Legacy Circle.

The Family Tree Legacy Circle recognizes supporters who have made a monetary gift to the JFS Endowment in their lifetime, have informed us of their intent to leave a bequest to JFS or those of blessed memory who have already left such a gift. FTLC supporters make a lasting statement of their values and provide funds to continue their commitment to JFS and the community.

If you have included JFS in your estate plans, please let us know. We would be honored to thank you and include you in the Family Tree Legacy Circle.

Bequests

The most common form of legacy giving is a **gift described in your will**, commonly called a bequest. A bequest affords you flexibility and control over the legacy you leave. For some donors, it also means a portion of your

Source: Seattle JFS 2018

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Look to your board first.

Encourage ALL board members to make bequests ... and publicize these in your newsletter and other publications. Source: Marts & Lundy.

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"I always find the best way to get rid of a bad board member is to ask them for a legacy - they usually resign on the spot!"

Richard Radcliffe, 2018

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Keep your expectations in check...

"A recent look at one charity I've worked with found 50% of those saying they had left a gift in their will had gone on to do so."

Stephen George, Sept 2016

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The advantage of endowment? Eternity of a sort



How do we deal with the existential challenge of knowing we're mortal? We seek "symbolic immortality."

Dr. Claire Routley

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A hot meal. A good home.

How Will You Be Remembered?



the homeless and those who struggle to overcome addiction have somewhere to turn for help, even after you're gone.

And for your kindness, we'll always remember you. To learn how easy it is to leave a legacy gift to Merchants Quay, ring Denisa on 01 524 0115.

MQI's Stabilisation Programme...

(continued from front page)

make sure they are looked after.

MOI: What life skills are they learning?

would have missed out on things in secondary school level. The emphasis is always on personal development. There are loads of connected with any other teams to projects, visits to art galleries, education programmes. The local employment services know we are here now. Stabilisation is a process of listening and trust and

What's On at MQI?

Read All About It:

- Just Released: 2009 Annual Review reveals a 'rising tide of desperation' for people who are homeless; to read the review go to www.mqi.ie
- . MQI on Facebook: Listen latest media updates on
- Drug-Free Pilot Programme: ew day programme offers ongoing structure, education and counselling for clients who
- recently completed drug rehab Scholarship Fund to help
- clients, page 3
 New Aftercare House in **Leixlip:** Grows capacity by 200%; provides six more places for aftercare housing and support in

Source: Lisa Sargent

What he saw in permanent endowment: "He

liked the fact that he will be doing something good with his money long after he is gone."

Source: Sally Kirby Hartman, 2015

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Oldest endowment?

Est. by bequest 1249 at Oxford.

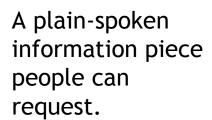


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Have an offer for info. (It's a multi-step sale.)

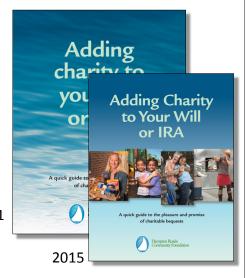
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> No jargon!

2011



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All fundraising copy should sound like someone talking.

-- George Smith, Tiny Essentials of Writing for Fundraising



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How does it work?

It's pretty simple,

once you decide to save the world...

Or your local library.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Why should I make my bequest through The Rhode Island Foundation? Why not leave a gift directly to a charity?
- A. The Rhode Island Foundation is a permanent institution, founded in 1916. Decades from now, centuries from now for that matter, The Rhode Island Foundation will still be here. And your bequest will still be hard at work, making grants to the charities and causes you care about most.
- Q. Is it difficult to make a charitable bequest?
- A. Not at all. You can do it today, with a call to your lawyer, if you already have a will. Or call the Bequest Department at The Rhode

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"Dr. Death," mega-researcher Richard Radcliffe

"Joy Brochure," not a "Death Brochure."





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"Fundraising is NOT about money."

Source: UK fundraisers going back to the 1960s



Source: Neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, via the For Impact blog

"Humans are driven by a will to establish meaning in their lives. They need purpose."

That's your real job, in donor communications: to bestow purpose in exchange for support.

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Essential point from "Dr. Death," Richard Radcliffe



"Bequests are life-driven, death activated...."

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Key brochure messages

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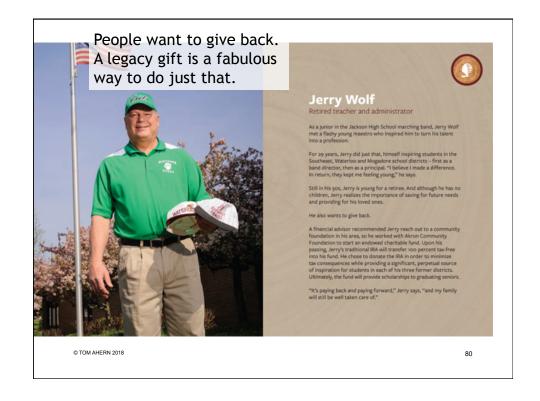


Writer: Sally Kirby Hartman

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NEVER stop talking about it

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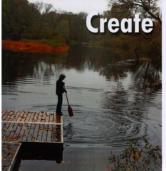
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"Drip, drip, drip. Planned gifts are prompted by life events – death, birth, marriage, health, travel, retirement." [People write or rewrite a will on such occasions.] "That's why it's so important to have a regular cadence of marketing messages. Because you never know when the time might be right."

Source: 2012, Jeff Comfort, Georgetown; via Phyllis Freedman's Planned Giving blog

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Create your own ripple effect

your estate plan. Please tuck this card in with your important papers to help you mber the river in your plans.

If you've already remembered the Ipswich River in your plan, thank you! Please let us know so we can thank you properly and recognize your generous help. se call Trish at 978.412.8200, email her at taldrich@ipswichrivec.org or visit ipswichrivec.org for

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it." ~ Norman MacLean



PO Box 570 | Ipswich, MA 01938 | tel: 978-412-8200 | www.ipswichriver.org

Send reminders

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"15-second spots on public radio work best for us."

Hampton Roads Community Foundation, 2015

"Support comes from Hampton Roads Community Foundation. Teacher Byron Babcock died in 2009. Today he helps communities and schools encourage struggling students to succeed. Visit Leave a Bequest.org to learn how you can live forever through philanthropy."

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Kate Harboui

Membership Coordinator, Friends of the Columbia Gorge 971-634-0557

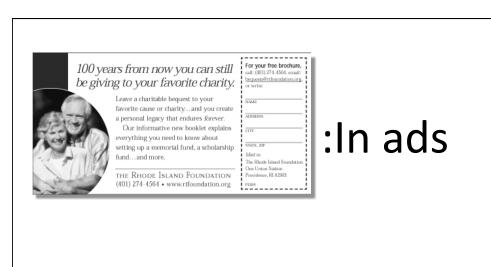
What's going on with Friends? Sign up to stay informed.

Facebook / Twitter / Website

In email footers:



You can be a FRIEND of the COLUMBIA GORGE forever! Just add a gift to your will ... and join our popular FOREVER GORGEOUS LEGACY SOCIETY.



Ran for years in the obituary pages of the daily newspaper

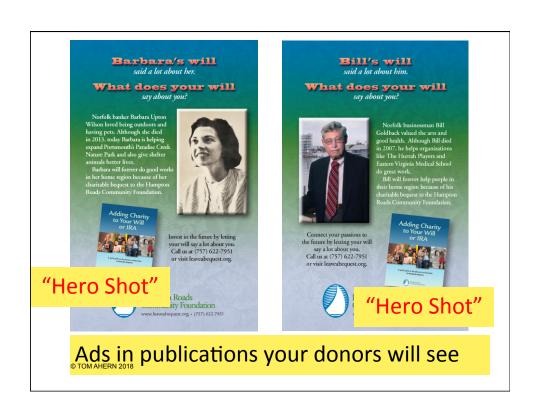
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"It never occurred to me!"

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Send your best prospects a special letter every year, warmly inviting them to join the Legacy Society.

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My simple letter formula Opening: Thank your donor deeply ... humbly ... for years of help.

Middle: Put the Legacy Society offer in front of them, without coyness. Ask for their consideration, not an immediate action. "Next time you review...."

Adding Charity
to Your Will
or IRA

End: Thank your donor some more.

PS: Offer free information about charitable bequests.

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