

Endowment Building and Legacy Giving

Board Orientation Materials

Welcome to (organization name) Board!

An endowment is an asset that is set aside to grow over time to earn revenue which will benefit our organization each year. In this way a permanent endowment can ensure our financial sustainability. Our current endowment is approximately [\$X]. [If applicable: Our endowment policy limits the amount we can draw from our endowment each year for operating expenses to X%.]

You can make a legacy gift with cash or after-lifetime assets - when these are placed in a permanent endowment, they become part of your legacy to our organization. As after-lifetime gifts come from accumulated wealth rather than disposable income, legacy gifts are often larger than current cash gifts, and it frees you to use your wealth for what you need or want during your lifetime, while ensuring our beloved organization(s) is cared for in the future.

We are fortunate to be part of an exciting legacy initiative sponsored by the Jewish Federation/Jewish Community Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Life & Legacy® is an 8-year partnership program to assist communities and organizations across North America to promote after-lifetime giving to benefit local Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations and other Jewish entities.

As part of this initiative, we receive training, support, and monetary incentives to make endowment building a priority and integrate legacy into the philanthropic culture of our organization.

Currently, we are in year [X] of the program. To date, we have secured [X] letters of commitment, of which (%) are legally put in place and already realized [\$X] which has been placed in our endowment fund(s).

The Board's leadership is crucial to our successfully building our endowment. We ask each Board member to have a legacy conversation during their first year of serving on the board and to consider making either a cash or legacy gift to our endowment. A legacy commitment can either be a formalized commitment you have already made in your estate plan or a promise to formalize a commitment (possibly a bequest, life insurance or a retirement account designation) sometime in the coming year.

As a board member, your role as an ambassador for endowment building and legacy giving, as well as showing our appreciation and gratitude to our current legacy donors is key. You will learn much more about Life & Legacy and how you can help during your tenure on the board.

For now, if you have any questions, please contact [XXXX, TITLE, EMAIL and PHONE].