



WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



August Marks Make-A-Will Month: Create a Legacy That Lasts

None of us like to think about the unexpected, but planning for the future is one of the greatest acts of care we can offer our loved ones. During National Make-A-Will Month, it's worth taking a moment to consider how a simple document can protect your family, preserve your legacy, and support the community you cherish.

A will does more than distribute your belongings. It gives you a voice when you can no longer speak for yourself, helping reduce stress for your loved ones while ensuring your values continue to shape the future. For many people, that includes making a charitable gift to organizations that have made a difference in their lives or in the community they call "home."

At the Washington County Community Foundation, we encourage everyone to have a current, legally valid will. Estate planning is one of the most meaningful ways to care for your family while creating a legacy that reflects what matters most to you.

For those considering charitable giving as part of their estate plans, the PA Giving Pledge is an excellent place to start. Inspired by the national Giving Pledge, the initiative encourages Pennsylvanians to consider leaving at least five percent of their estate to charitable causes. The pledge is not legally binding and can remain anonymous, but it serves as a thoughtful reminder that even a modest planned gift can make a lasting difference. With an estimated \$418 billion expected to transfer between generations across Pennsylvania over the next decade, including \$8.86 billion in Washington County alone, charitable gifts like these have the potential to strengthen communities for generations to come.

Of course, not everyone creates a will. While that outcome is never ideal, Pennsylvania recently took an important step to ensure that even in those circumstances, a person's legacy will be remembered and their home community can benefit.

Under Act 50 of 2025, when a Pennsylvania resident dies without a valid will and without surviving family, their estate no longer automatically becomes part of the Commonwealth's general fund. Instead, those assets are directed to a permanent endowed community fund managed by the community foundation serving the county where the individual lived. In Washington County, those gifts will remain at the WCCF, generating grants that support local nonprofits and community needs for generations to come. Pennsylvania is now the first state in the nation to ensure these estates stay local, charitable, and permanent.

While Act 50 provides an important safety net, the Foundation encourages everyone to plan ahead. A will allows you, not the law, to decide how your assets are distributed, who will carry out your wishes, and which people and causes become part of your legacy.

This National Make-A-Will Month, take time to start the conversation. Meet with an attorney, review your estate plan, or explore how charitable giving can become part of your legacy. After all, a legacy isn't measured by what we leave behind; it's measured by the lives we continue to touch.

Contact the WCCF at 724-222-6330 or visit www.wccf.net to learn how a simple commitment today can create lasting impact for tomorrow.



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A Lasting Legacy Begins with a Simple Bequest

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest and most meaningful ways to leave a lasting impact on the causes you care about. By including the Washington County Community Foundation in your will or estate plan, you can support your community for generations to come.

Sample Bequest Language

The following language may be shared with your attorney:

"I give and bequeath to the Washington County Community Foundation, Inc., EIN #25-1726013, (a sum of \$_____ or _____% of my estate) to (detail the charitable cause you wish to benefit)."

Please Share Your Plans With Us

With so many charitable options available to you, we strongly recommend you contact the WCCF to arrange a meeting to discuss your short-term and long-term charitable goals.

Our team can:

- Review proposed bequest language to ensure your charitable wishes can be administered effectively
- Identify considerations for your charitable gift
- Discuss the type of fund that best matches your goals
- Answer questions from you or your attorney

A brief conversation today can help prevent confusion later and ensure your legacy reflects exactly what you envision.

Create Your Legacy Today

Many donors choose to create a named fund during their lifetime and then add to that fund by bequest.

In addition to the tax benefits, this approach allows you to:

- Experience the joy of your philanthropy while you're living
- See firsthand how your fund benefits the community
- Involve your family in charitable giving
- Adjust your fund's charitable purpose if your interests or community needs change over time
- Ensure your generosity continues well beyond your lifetime

We're Here to Help

Whether you're supporting an existing fund, creating your own charitable legacy, or simply exploring your options, the WCCF is happy to help you and your professional advisors.

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This material is provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal, tax, or financial advice.

Donors should consult with their financial advisor, tax professional, or legal counsel regarding their specific situation before making any charitable or financial decisions.

A Project of the Pennsylvania Community Foundation Association

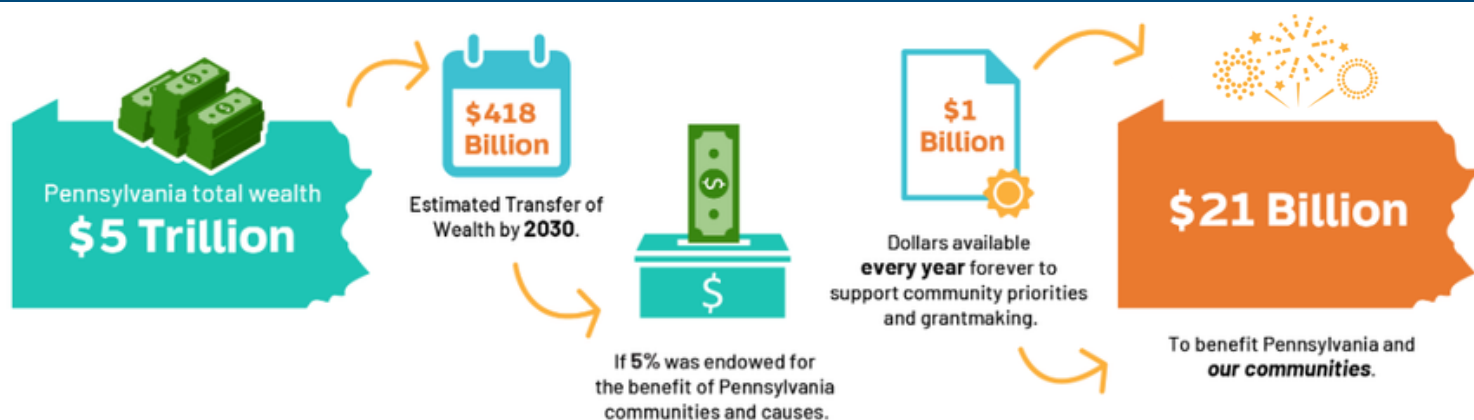


A Transfer of Wealth Study prepared by The Center for Rural Pennsylvania estimates

\$418 billion will be transferred from one generation to the next in the coming decade. If Pennsylvania residents used just **5%** of this wealth to create charitable endowments within community foundations, over **\$1 billion** in funds would be available every year to support local grantmaking and community priorities.

To encourage this, PACFA created the **PA Giving Pledge**, a charitable initiative supported by 41+ community foundations statewide.

Make a lasting impact in our community. Leave at least 5% to do good.



Washington County's Transfer of Wealth by 2033

- ▶ Estimated Wealth Transfer: \$8.86 Billion
- ▶ PA Giving Pledge Goal (5%): \$443.07 million
- ▶ Potential Annual Endowed Grantmaking: \$22.15 million



Take the Pledge

Simply include a charitable provision in your estate plan. There is no requirement that your pledge be made public and no documentation is required. We do know, however, that public commitments can encourage others to give. Should you wish to make your commitment public, you are encouraged to contact the **WCCF**. On behalf of future generations of Pennsylvanians, we thank you!



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