

Note from the CEO

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You don't have to have great wealth to leave a great legacy

In today's world, philanthropy is often associated with wealthy individuals making grand gestures through hefty donations. While these contributions make a significant impact, they also create a perception that only the affluent can leave a lasting legacy. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. At Food Bank for Larimer County, we believe that everyone has the potential to make a difference, regardless of the size of their estate.

Leaving a non-profit in your will is a powerful way to ensure your values and passions continue to make a positive impact long after you're gone. And the best part? You don't need to have extreme wealth to do so.

Creating a will is an incredibly personal, significant decision that many of us feel uncomfortable thinking and talking about, especially when we're "not old yet."

However, I have gone through the process of thinking about and planning for these unavoidable life events and can assure you it's a lot less scary—and a lot less work—than most realize. Creating a will allows us to determine what happens to our assets when we are gone. Not only does it provide long-term control over our own financial legacy, but it provides an opportunity to contribute to causes close to our hearts.

It's not the size of the gift but the intention behind it that creates a lasting legacy. A bequest, no matter the size, is a testament to your commitment to making the world a better place. By including a non-profit in your will, you become a part of a larger community of change-makers, united in the pursuit of a better future.

We are fortunate that **SO MANY** people support the Food Bank for Larimer County through annual donations. This support usually shows up as donating food, time, or money. In fact, individual donations made up about 55% of our total revenue this past fiscal year. We processed more than 25,000 donations and this support is critical to our mission.

But legacy giving is different. There are a lot of people who support the work we do, but don't have an annual or monthly income that allows them to financially support us, or support us at the level they would like. And that is ok; we find these supporters are donating food, attending events, sharing our mission with others, and are volunteering with our hunger-relief efforts. But, these same people may be able to make a legacy gift.

A gift of \$10,000 in any one day or year to any cause is out of reach for most people. But these same folks may be able to leave that amount in a will, especially if it's coming from equity in a home or a retirement account.

With operating three facilities while continuously planning for growth, we will continue to rely on donations at all levels. Legacy gifts have the unique ability to allow us to do capital improvements we would not otherwise be able to do. For example, it was a legacy gift that helped us close the capital campaign for our Wright Drive location. It was a legacy gift that allowed us to finally complete a much-needed, major kitchen renovation. Legacy gifts have also gone toward purchasing trucks, and more.

While legacy giving is not new for us—we are grateful to have received legacy gifts of all sizes for decades—our new partnership with FreeWill is. We have created this relationship with **FreeWill to make it easy for individuals to create a will**. Using the tool gives you the option for leaving a bequest to Food Bank for Larimer County OR other charities you support.

Our relationship with **FreeWill** is a win-win. Certainly, we want it to be easier for our supporters to include us in their estate planning. And it's important to note that using FreeWill does NOT mean you need to designate Food Bank for Larimer County in your will. For those that do not wish to use an on-line tool or have a more complex situation an estate attorney is an excellent choice to help you plan your legacy.

When I think about the legacy I want to leave, it includes supporting the Food Bank for Larimer County. Thank you for considering this impactful way of giving. Your support means the world to us.