

BEQUEST SOCIETY MAJOR DONOR SOLUTIONS

There are several ways to become a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) of Rotary International. A Major Donor is categorized as a gift of \$10,000.00 or more. Cash, obviously, works but so, too, will ***pledges of future contributions*** from sale of real estate, proceeds of life insurance, and designated gifts (known as “bequests”) from a Will, a Trust, or a designated retirement plan such as a 401k or an IRA.

The easiest method to become a Major Donor to TRF involves gifts by Bequest.

1. Do you have a Last Will and Testament? If not, you should. A Will allows you to direct where or to whom your estate passes upon your death. Without a Will, the court system decides. A Will is typically drawn by an attorney. A ‘boiler plate’ template is also available online at: www.lawdepot.com. In your Will, you specify that at least \$10,000.00 be distributed from your estate to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. In the past, a copy of the page showing the designation accompanied the Rotary Bequest Society Application. This is not longer necessary; simply fill out the Bequest Society Application indicating the amount of your gift.
2. If you have a Last Will and Testament, you may modify it by re-visiting the attorney you last used to add an amendment to your will, known as a “codicil.” The codicil adds a page stating your desire to gift \$10,000.00 (or more) from your estate to TRF of RI. A ‘boiler plate’ codicil example is also available at www.lawdepot.com. Both the Codicil or Last Will and Testament require your signature and two witnesses (who are impartial, i.e., not beneficiaries). All three are best signed in the presence of a Notary Public, who attests the validity of the signatures.
3. If you have a defined retirement plan such as 401k or IRA from which you intend to make your gift, a “New Beneficiary Form” is given to your IRA Company stating your desire that “the first \$10,000.00 (or more) goes to TRF of RI,” the remainder to whomever. Similarly, a signed and notarized Letter of Instruction to the administrator of your 401k plan can be written to direct your gift to TRF of RI.