If you’re like many of our supporters, you may have reached a point where you’d welcome the opportunity to influence not only the future ownership of your possessions, but the meaning that others assign to your life. One way to accomplish this is by considering the means by which you will provide for the people and causes you cherish most.

When it comes to defining your legacy at Bismarck State College Foundation, your options are many. Here are just a few of the ways you can express your values through a gift to us:

**Donate cash today**—You can give a little every year or one lump sum to help Bismarck State College Foundation provide operational necessities.

**Include us in your will**—Designating a percentage of your estate for Bismarck State College Foundation in your will can help future generations.

**Establish a life income gift**—Receive fixed or variable payments for life and gain valuable tax advantages when you create a life income gift.

**Donate life insurance**—You can easily support our mission by naming Bismarck State College Foundation as a beneficiary on a policy you already own.

**Consider your retirement plan assets**—By making a simple designation on your plan’s beneficiary designation form, you can save your loved ones from a heavy tax burden while helping us.

**Give property**—If you have a house or another piece of property you no longer want to manage, you can use it to help Bismarck State College Foundation continue our vital work.

If you have any questions about opportunities for giving to Bismarck State College Foundation or the benefits you can receive for doing so, simply contact us.

Thank You!

*We cannot say thank you enough for your generosity.*

*It is only with your support that we are able to carry out our important mission.*
3 Steps For Preparing Effective Inheritance Plans

When you think about the future—a future beyond your lifetime—what do you picture? Are your loved ones enjoying the keepsakes you left them? Are your financial assets being effectively managed? Have the people you care about received more than Uncle Sam has? To make the disposition of your belongings easier on you and your family, a well-thought-out estate plan is essential. These basic steps can help you get started.

1. Make Sure You Have An Up-to-Date Will

Your will is one of the most important documents you own. It provides clear direction for your family after you’re gone, when they’re making major decisions under stressful circumstances.

When was the last time your will was updated? If it was years ago, you should arrange a meeting with your estate planning attorney to review your decisions. You might have overlooked a change that can affect your wishes, such as a move to another state, tax law changes, or the loss or addition of a family member. A revocable living trust can also be a suitable means for passing on assets.

Check out the article on the next page to see if a trust is right for your situation.

2. Decide Where the Money Goes

Take some time to decide how you want to provide for the well-being of each of your family members. Don’t let your worries about fairness and equality discourage you. Simply start with the “big picture” items such as real estate, bank accounts, life insurance policies and retirement plan assets. This will help you prepare to meet with your estate planning attorney.

After you feel comfortable with your gifts for your family, you may begin to consider providing for a charitable cause you’re passionate about. Within your estate, there are many assets, such as your IRA or life insurance, that can be used to help you make a big difference. Feel free to contact us to learn about these options. Then, meet with your estate planning attorney to put your ideas into action.

3. Keep Your Loved Ones Informed

Once you’re at peace with your decisions, gather your family and explain your choices. Be firm and help them understand your perspective, to avoid any heartache later. Following are a few talking points to help you and your family feel more comfortable:

- Thank your family for recognizing what this meeting means to you.
- Emphasize your goals to be fair and your concerns for the future of your loved ones.
- Detail the responsibilities, items and amounts you’ve chosen to give your family members and why.
- Express your desire to give to charity and your goals for your charitable gifts.

Will the Kids Understand?

A national research study revealed how your loved ones really feel about sharing a piece of their inheritance with a nonprofit. As you complete your plans, we hope you’ll consider a gift to our organization. Even a small percentage can make a bigger difference to us than you might think.

The percentage of Americans, who are age 30 and older and expect to receive an inheritance, who feel it’s reasonable for you to give 5 to 10 percent to charity.

Source: “2009 Stelter Donor Insight Report”
Have You Considered a Living Trust?

A living trust can offer many benefits when it comes to passing on your assets after your lifetime. Following are a few of those perks. After reviewing these benefits, if you decide a trust would be beneficial for your situation, we hope you’ll consider naming us as a beneficiary of a portion of your trust. Your trust can pay income, and even principal, to you for life and then to your chosen beneficiaries.

Benefits of a Living Trust

- **Maintain control.** The charitable causes you prefer to support may change over time, as may the circumstances and needs of your family members. With a typical living trust, you may change beneficiaries, add or withdraw assets, or amend or revoke the trust at any time.

- **Ensure privacy.** Unlike a will, a living trust is not subject to public scrutiny. Your beneficiaries and the specific amounts or percentages they receive remain confidential.

- **Enjoy a smooth transition.** Living trusts avoid many of the delays typically associated with the probate process, which can take one year or more depending on the circumstances. By making charitable gifts through a living trust, your chosen charities can receive their shares more quickly.

- **Save money.** In addition to saving time, avoiding probate saves money. Although there will be additional costs now to establish the trust, the cost of probate can reach as high as 8 percent in some states.

- **Benefit from professional management.** Trusts can be administered through banks or professional trust companies, which offer the services of well-trained trustees. Through prudent investing, these trustees can help make the most of your trust’s assets and ultimately deliver more money to your beneficiaries.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions about making us a beneficiary of a percentage of your living trust. For help establishing your living trust, an estate planning attorney will be your greatest asset.

Support Your Family Into the Future

Send for our FREE guide, *Take Care of Your Loved Ones, Even After You’re Gone*, to learn how a living trust can help provide for your loved ones—privately and securely.

Return the enclosed reply card today to receive your complimentary copy.

The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income/estate taxes or state law may impact your results.
HOW TO
Change Beneficiaries in Your Living Trust

Once you have named the individuals and charities you would like to receive your trust assets after your lifetime, you can forget about your living trust, right? Not so fast. What if, as time passes and your life evolves, you would like to change a beneficiary? The process is actually easier than you might think and can be done in a few quick steps.

• Locate your copy of your current living trust. If you can’t find it, stop by your estate planning attorney’s office and request a copy or contact the office and have one sent to you.

• Mark what you would like to change. Look over your current living trust and determine if you’ve experienced any life changes—such as a death or birth in the family, a move, or a change in net worth—that would affect your current plan.

• Meet with your estate planning attorney. Do not attempt to change your trust on your own. It is the job of your attorney to properly make changes to your living trust through a formal amendment. Your amendment must be created with the same formalities as your living trust.

Property. Another popular way is to give us a percentage of your estate after other gift intentions have been fulfilled. You’ll want to take our official bequest language to your estate planning attorney to establish your future gift—contact us to receive this wording.

Action List
Planning Steps You Can Take Today

1. Return the enclosed reply card to receive our FREE guide on using a living trust to provide for loved ones.
2. Contact us to receive sample language you can share with your attorney to include in your living trust.
3. Set up a meeting with your estate planning attorney today to go over your plans and make any necessary updates.

BSC Foundation publishes Financial Connections as a service to our alumni and friends. Our goal is to provide timely suggestions that may assist you in your tax and financial planning. The information contained in Financial Connections is based on recent court decisions, rulings, federal tax laws and regulations now in effect. To determine how this information applies to your financial plans, you should consult your financial, legal and tax advisors. Gifts to BSC Foundation are tax-deductible.