

Your Estate Gift to Benedictine Women of Madison

through the Benedictine Life Foundation at Holy Wisdom Monastery



"As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You." –Psalm 42:1



Holy Wisdom Monastery

4200 County Road M
Middleton, WI 53562
608-836-1631 x124

www.benedictinewomen.org



*The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.
-Martin Luther*

Did you know that more than 50% of Americans die without a will? When that happens, assets are distributed based on the laws of the state, none of which automatically include a provision for charitable entities such as Benedictine Women of Madison. A planned gift, often in the form of a bequest, is the only way to ensure that upon your death, your personal possessions, property and other assets are passed on to children, grandchildren and others.

Including Benedictine Women of Madison in your estate plan allows us to recognize your gift while you are still living. All that is necessary to become a member of the Benedict Society is to inform us of the provision you have made in your plans. The amount is not a factor and does not have to be disclosed; only the fact that you have made a commitment is necessary. You may remain anonymous about your plans by requesting that your name not be published on a list of members.

What is estate planning?

Estate planning can be described as planning for illness, death, and taxes—three things that most people cannot avoid. Examples of typical estate planning documents include: powers of attorney, wills, beneficiary forms, and in some instances, trusts.



Request information about planned giving

I would like more information about how I might incorporate a gift to the Benedictine Life Foundation in my estate plan.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Daytime phone _____

Evening phone _____

- The best time to reach me by phone is:
_____ am or _____ pm
- I prefer to be contacted via email at the above address.

Return this form to:
Benedictine Life Foundation,
4200 County Road M, Middleton WI 53562

Phone: 608-836-1631 x124
Email: blf@benedictinewomen.org
Website: www.benedictinewomen.org



How does a planned gift differ from the gifts I already give to Benedictine Women of Madison through the Benedictine Life Foundation?

Annual gifts, weekly offerings, and donations for special projects generally come from discretionary income, which is income that remains after paying the bills, buying groceries, etc.

A planned gift, however, is generally taken from savings or non-liquid assets and requires planning to execute. Examples of non-liquid assets include bank certificates of deposit (CD's), stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement plans, real estate, collections, jewelry, and other property of value. Another common characteristic of a planned gift is that the recipient usually does not receive the gift until the donor or donors have passed away.

For Christians, planned giving can be a powerful testimony of faith. We feel good about getting our "house in order," setting our priorities and sharing our values with others. By planning now

for how your estate will be distributed at death, you not only provide for those you love, you also ensure that loved ones will not have to make decisions about your assets that they may not feel confident or comfortable making on their own.

How will my bequest or other estate gift be used?

As the charitable giving entity at Holy Wisdom Monastery, the Benedictine Life Foundation can help you direct your gift to the work of the monastery that is most meaningful to you. Planned gifts may be directed to endowments for ecumenical programming and environmental stewardship, which grows the perpetual stream of income that supports these areas. Gifts to the Where Most Needed fund provide the Sisters with maximum flexibility regarding how each gift is used. Oblates, who are lay associates of Holy Wisdom Monastery, may want to give to the Oblate Fund. In every case, your planned gift demonstrates a commitment to the Sisters' work and Benedictine values in a very special way.

Sample Bequest Language

The easiest way to make a planned gift is by naming the Benedictine Life Foundation as a primary beneficiary, co-beneficiary or secondary beneficiary on a retirement account or life insurance policy. Additionally, you may wish to create or change a will, which distributes assets that do not contain a beneficiary designation (a house, for example). The following language is recommended:

- **Outright Bequest:**

I give, devise, and bequeath to Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (Federal ID# 39-1830847), a tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin, located at 4200 County Road M, Middleton WI 53562, or its legal successor organization, the sum of \$ _____ or percentage of (cash, real or personal property herein described) to be used for the general purpose of Benedictine Women of Madison at the discretion of the governing leadership.

- **Bequest for a Specific Purpose:**

I give, devise, and bequeath to Benedictine Life Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (Federal ID# 39-1830847), a tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin, located at 4200 County Road M, Middleton WI 53562, or its legal successor organization, the sum of \$ _____ or percentage of (cash, real or personal property herein described) for the purpose of _____.

Beneficiary change forms are available on websites of most life insurance companies and retirement plans.



How can I obtain more information about planned giving?

Information about planned giving opportunities is available through the Benedictine Life Foundation. Without incurring any cost or other obligation, contact Nancy Sandleback, collections manager, at 608-836-1631 x124 or blf@benedictinewomen.org to discuss your specific needs in confidence, and help identify the best planned giving options for you.

Please note: The information contained in this document is not intended to be legal advice. As with all things regarding your estate, we strongly recommend that you consult an attorney to ensure that additions or amendments to your will are appropriate for you and your individual situation. The attorney will review your current assets, determine possible tax implications and help you create an estate plan that ensures the distribution of your assets in a way that is most meaningful to you.



What is planned giving?

For many, giving is an essential part of the call and claim of God upon their lives. God's gifts to us include all that we have. Planned giving methods are nothing more than tools that enable you to practice comprehensive stewardship in a structured and purposeful way. Examples of planned gifts include:

- Including a monetary gift to a non-profit organization in your will;
- Designating a percentage of your life insurance or retirement account to a non-profit organization; or
- Placing your home in a charitable trust, giving you the ability to enjoy it during life and then have it pass to a non-profit organization upon your death.

By making a gift of a percentage of your assets, you can guard against inadvertently diminishing provisions for other beneficiaries. Conversely, you can allow your gift to grow proportionately if your assets grow.

Isn't planned giving just for the very wealthy?

Many people are surprised to learn that a large percentage of planned gifts come from middle income individuals. Planned giving enables you to make the large gift you may always have wished to make but couldn't during your lifetime. Some planned gifts, such as a charitable gift annuity, can also increase your financial security during retirement while providing for the work of the sisters at the same time.

Why should you consider a planned gift?

By including Holy Wisdom Monastery in your estate plan, you make a lasting and powerful statement to family and friends about your values. This statement may be a more important legacy than all of your tangible property combined. It also helps ensure a strong financial future for the work at Holy Wisdom Monastery.