

### Frequently Asked Estate Planning Questions

#### **What official name do I use to include SHARE in my Will?**

SHARE Family and Community Services Society

Charitable Business Number: 118875798 RR0001

#### **Must I have an estate in order to leave a charitable bequest/legacy gift?**

“Estate” is simply a term used to describe any property, money or personal belongings that you have at the time of your death. Most people leave an estate when they die, even though they may not have a great deal of wealth. It is important to remember that there is no such thing as an insignificant gift/donation. Anyone can arrange to leave a charitable donation from his or her own estate – no matter how large or small.

#### **Who can help me to arrange a legacy gift?**

You can talk to a lawyer, financial planner, accountant, trust officer or insurance agent about a legacy gift to SHARE. They can explain the tax benefits to you and can help you with ideas about what kind of donation is meaningful to you. You may also contact SHARE for information and assistance. We have gift planning experience and are willing to work with you and your advisor.

#### **How can I leave a legacy to SHARE?**

There are many ways of leaving a legacy – the most common is through a Will. Some people specify a dollar amount, while others leave a percentage of their estate or any assets that would be left over after they have provided for their family and friends. You can also leave investments, property, life insurance, or make SHARE a beneficiary of your RRSP/RIF.

#### **Do I have to include my wish to leave a charitable bequest to SHARE in my Will?**

To be certain that SHARE receives the charitable bequest; you should state your intention in your Will. Without a Will, you have no control over your assets after your death. Your property and finances will be settled according to provincial law – regardless of your wishes.

#### **How do I leave a charitable bequest/legacy gift in memory of a person or for a specified purpose?**

A legacy gift is a meaningful way of recognizing someone who has made a difference in your life. You may also want to direct your donation to a specific SHARE program like the Food Bank or services for seniors. This can be arranged in the wording of your Will. Just specify that the gift is

given in memory of a particular person or for a specific use in the bequest language. However, if you are considering designating your legacy gift to a specific purpose you should discuss your wishes with a representative of SHARE to ensure your gift will be applied in accordance with your intent.

**Do I tell SHARE that I have arranged for a legacy gift?**

This is entirely your decision. SHARE finds it helpful to know bequests/legacy gifts so we can thank you and keep you informed of the diligent work and successful outcomes obtained through donor funding. If you share your intentions with us, we are able to recognize you in the annual report; you will be paying it forward as others may be inspired to consider leaving a legacy through SHARE as well.

*Thank you for considering leaving a legacy gift to SHARE Family and Community Services.*

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For more information please call SHARE's administration office at 604.540.9161 or contact our Director of Fund Development, Valerie Hutton at [valerie.hutton@sharesociety.ca](mailto:valerie.hutton@sharesociety.ca).

*This material provides general information and is not intended to constitute or replace specific professional advice. Donors considering a legacy gift should speak to an advisor with appropriate tax and other expertise to implement a strategy that achieves their objectives.*