

Lasting Legacy



Securing Your Future, Making Your Mark

Fall 2017

New Initiative “Connect2Affect” Combats Senior Isolation

Social relationships are important to quality of life across one’s lifespan, and can bestow life with meaning, purpose, and a general sense of well-being. A recent report funded by AARP Foundation found that nearly one in five Americans age 62–91 are lonely. Furthermore, isolation is associated with increased rates of premature death, depression, and disability from chronic diseases.

AARP Foundation is striving to end social isolation with an innovative new initiative, Connect2Affect. We are partnering with other like-minded organizations to create resources that help seniors build the social connections they need to thrive. From community choruses to art



classes, we’re helping seniors engage with their communities.

“Research has recently uncovered that isolation and loneliness is about as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day,” said E. A. Casey, who runs Connect2Affect. “One in every five older adults are already at that level. Connect2Affect was created to elevate the dialogue and share ideas on how to solve this.”

The Connect2Affect website, which launched in late 2016, includes an assessment test that can be taken independently or with the help of a loved one. For those at risk, Connect2Affect provides a searchable tool to help seniors connect with transportation, volunteer opportunities, senior centers, and other community activities in their area.

According to Casey, “The website is just the first step. Our aim is to increase awareness that isolation is a medical issue and to help communities mobilize to prevent it.” ■

Connect2Affect is made possible in part thanks to generous AARP Foundation supporters like you. For more information, visit connect2affect.org.

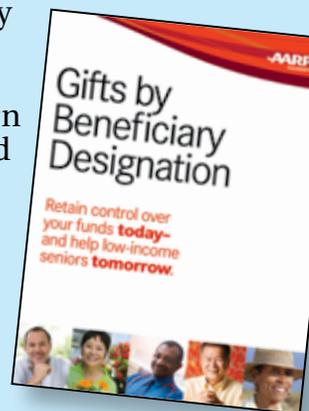


Benefits of Giving IRA Assets to Charity

Financial experts agree that donating retirement assets to charity is one of the smartest ways to give. When you leave retirement accounts to family (other than your spouse), the assets are taxed twice—as income to the recipient and as part of your estate. However, charities like AARP Foundation are tax-exempt, so the entire amount goes to the charity. That's why many people choose to leave retirement assets to charity and other, less tax-burdened, assets to their family and friends.

And it's easy! Simply request a beneficiary form from your account manager and list AARP Foundation as the beneficiary. You will also need to include our tax ID number, which is 52-0794300.

For more information about naming AARP Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA account, please return the enclosed form to request your copy of our free publication, *Gifts by Beneficiary Designation* or call us at 1-800-775-6776, option 6. ■



Tax-Free Donations

You probably know there are many different ways to support the causes you care about. One often overlooked option—the IRA charitable rollover gift—comes with tax benefits that many of our supporters find valuable as they manage their retirement resources.

Here's how it works: If you are over age 70 ½, you can make tax-free donations to qualified charities, such as AARP Foundation, directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). It's quite easy to do. Simply notify your IRA plan administrator of your intention to make a gift directly to a qualified charity, making sure to provide the address and a contact name at the charity. They handle everything else for you.

An IRA rollover donation counts towards your required minimum distribution and the best part is, you don't have to pay taxes on the distribution. Therefore, you can receive tax benefits even if you don't itemize deductions on your taxes. The charity will provide you with a letter acknowledging receipt of your gift for your tax files.

If you would like to make a gift to AARP Foundation from your IRA, please direct your administrator to send the check to: AARP Foundation, Attention: Heather Narvaez, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049. For more information about this tax-smart way of giving, please contact Heather at 202-434-6120 or hnarvaez@aarp.org. ■

Keep Pursuing Your Passions

Tom Tomkiewicz, Legacy Society Member

“When you retire, make sure you have enough savings to last you 8 to 12 years.” That’s what the personnel department told me when I was working in the automotive industry in the 1970s. Back then, that was the normal length of retirement.

Well, I’ve been retired for 30 years now. With advances in the medical fields, we’re all living longer these days. And all I can say is, I’m glad I was smart with my money.

One of the smartest things I did was to create charitable gift annuities with AARP Foundation that pay me income during my retirement. I created my first one shortly after I retired, and I’ve created new

ones regularly ever since. The rates are very attractive and I get a payment every month for extra spending money.

I always tell other people to consider CGAs, because it’s really a win-win situation. You feel good knowing that your gift is helping seniors who are struggling, and not just sitting in a bank. Plus you’re getting a little extra money in your own bank account each month to keep doing what you love.

I love to ice skate, play softball, and go golfing – anything I can do to stay active. Sports have been part of my life since I was a kid – and always will be. I also enjoy going to car shows all around the country. I like supporting AARP and

AARP Foundation because they are working to ensure that older Americans like me have the chance to keep pursuing our passions.

I turned 83 years old in March and I’m pleased to be living a very full life. The income from my AARP Foundation gift annuities really helps. Plus, knowing my gifts help others who are not as fortunate gives me great satisfaction. ■

Tom lives in Michigan and enjoys all the outdoor activities available in both summer and winter. He has several charitable gift annuities with AARP Foundation and finds the benefits valuable as he manages his retirement.



We're Here to Help

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about leaving a gift in your will, trust, or other estate planning documents. For more information about how you can make the lives we touch part of your lasting legacy, please call us at 1-800-775-6776, option 6, or email us at legacy@aarp.org. We're here to help you create your legacy.



Heather Narvaez



Sharman Greber



Rob Drucker



Marva Thomas

Sample Language

To include AARP Foundation in your will, you may wish to share the following language with your estate planning attorney:

“I hereby devise and bequeath (insert a sum, percentage, specific property, or residue/remainder) to AARP Foundation, federal tax ID #52-0794300, a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia, for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose.”

Our Vision: A country free of poverty where no older person feels vulnerable.

Poverty isn't a part of the American Dream. But for a startling number of older adults, it's a fact of life. AARP Foundation is disrupting the status quo and advancing bold solutions to the fundamental challenges that stand in the way of happier, more secure lives for seniors.

The information provided in this material is presented solely as general educational information and is not intended to be a substitute for professional estate planning or legal advice. As the laws regarding the validity and enforcement of wills or living trusts vary from state to state, you should seek the advice of your tax advisor, attorney, and/or financial planner to make certain a specific gift under consideration is compatible with your financial goals and needs and your estate plan. It is important to seek legal counsel in preparing these instruments. Any tax information contained in this document is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, to avoid any penalties imposed under the Internal Revenue Code.