

What *Message* Is In Your Estate Plan?

In my work in the development department of non-profits throughout the years, I have come across many people who've told me, "I don't have an estate plan." My response to them is always the same—"Yes, you do! If you don't determine who should receive the assets from your estate, the Commonwealth of Kentucky determines it for you!" Regardless of the amount of your estate, you are the best person to make the plan!

Many factors determine the course of a person's estate plan. If you are younger and establishing a plan, you want to make sure your spouse and children are cared for. If you are older, it may be your adult children that you are considering leaving property and assets to. But don't forget to consider a gift to your favorite charity or non-profit when making your plan!

You see, these gifts are about more than just leaving money to a favorite organization; they are also about leaving a message. A message to your heirs about what's been important in your life—a message that caring for the future needs of your community is important to you; a message that helping others is an essential part of your life; a message that the non-profit benefiting is an asset to the community and you want them to continue the great work they are doing long after you are gone. What message is in your estate plan?



At Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Kentucky, we recommend that you work with your CPA, financial planner and/or estate planning attorney to make sure your estate plan is sending the message YOU want to your family and friends. They also are familiar with the IRS tax code, and can help you determine which assets would be best left to your favorite non-profit and which ones would benefit your family without an added tax burden. And then let your favorite charity know that you've remembered them in your estate plan—they will want to make sure they thank you now! If you currently don't have a

financial planner, we work with several and would be happy to make a referral for you!

But don't wait—whether you are 25, 45, 65, or 85 (or anywhere in between!)—the time is now to make your estate plan and include YOUR message!

Brenda Knollenberg is the Development Manager for Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Kentucky, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which serves patients and families in Daviess, Hancock, Muhlenberg and Hopkins counties.



Your gift now helps us serve patients through ANY crisis and ensures we are here to care for future generations.

To learn more - call 270.926.7565.

Thank you for considering a gift to Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Kentucky in your will or estate plan.

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