

## **August: National Make a Will Month**

Did you know that August is “National Make a Will Month”? It’s the perfect time to remind you of the importance of reviewing or updating your will to ensure your final wishes are executed as you intended.

Thankfully, most Acts residents have made the commitment to get affairs in order at some point in time. So why pay attention to National Make a Will Month?

### **Will**

Your will is a living document. As things change throughout life, it is important to determine the impact of those changes on your estate plans. A move to a new state; death of a spouse or changes in the life of a beneficiary signal taking a look. Be sure to review your plans every couple of years, updating it with any new assets, and making any necessary changes to your wishes.

### **Other Beneficiaries**

It is also important to review beneficiary designations of any other assets such as life insurance, investments; retirement accounts, and Donor Advised Funds. Make certain that the assignments you made years ago are still appropriate today. You may need to consult a professional to determine if the funds go directly to the beneficiary, or become part of your estates, such as a will or trust.

### **Executor, Power of Attorney & Living Will**

At the same time you review your plans, think about reviewing the Executors that you put in place to execute it, making sure that you still have confidence in the designee and that they are still willing to complete the task. Also revisit any power of attorney and/or living will documents you may have established.

## **Charitable Contributions**

Your commitment to charities also changes over the course of your life, and your estate should reflect that. Most residents completed their “final wishes” before moving into an Acts community. Leaving a charitable distribution for your community in your will or trust, or as a beneficiary designation, costs nothing during your life, but will ensure that you will make a positive impact on your friends and neighbors and the parts of your community you most enjoy for years to come. Naming Acts Legacy Foundation as a beneficiary of these assets is a great way to leave a lasting impact. It can be a very simple addendum to put into place to further direct the use of your gift.

When designating a charity as a beneficiary, it doesn't have to be an all or nothing scenario. You can always decide to leave any percentage you choose to a charity or even to multiple charities. For example, you can leave 75% of your life insurance policy to a family member and the remaining 25% to your community. Such gifts can be designated to the area of need most important to you, such as the Samaritan Fund, Community Enrichment, Employee programs, among others, and will be utilized as you intended.

Please, take 15 minutes to look over your will and beneficiary designations to be sure they are up to date. Your life and relationships change over time and it's important that your will reflects those changes. A review of crucial documents can assure your assets go to those you most want to have them. It will also give guidance to your family and reassurance that they can fulfill your wishes during what is likely to be a very difficult time.

Click here to Visit [Legacy Planning](#) for more information.

If you would like additional information about membership in the **Centennial Society** or if you would like us to contact you about including your community in your Estate Plans, please email Acts Legacy Foundation at [Foundation@actslife.org](mailto:Foundation@actslife.org) or call 877-287-0799.