

LEGACIES

THE EARTH NEEDS A FEW GOOD FRIENDS



Leaving a Legacy for the Planet

For board member Michael Herz, co-founder of San Francisco Bay's Oceanic Society and San Francisco Baykeeper, advocating to protect the world's oceans, lakes and rivers is more than a career—it's been his mission since childhood.

Mike grew up on a small lake in Minnesota. He discovered his love for sailing during summer camp at 12 years old. An avid sailor to this day, Mike made the switch to ocean sailing and even completed a solo sail from San Francisco to Hawaii.

Mike earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and his master's degree from San Francisco State University before earning his PhD in neuropsychology at the University of Southern California.

In 1975, Mike took a year-long leave of absence from teaching at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, "which I'm still on," he laughed.

He then helped found the local Oceanic Society in San Francisco where he served as the group's executive director and started chapters in Puget Sound, Los Angeles and San Diego.

During his tenure at the Oceanic Society, Mike started one of the first water quality monitoring programs in the country and created air and boat patrols on San Francisco



Michael Herz

continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ■ **Considering a Gift to FOE?** ■ **Give to FOE Through Your IRA**

Considering a Gift to Friends of the Earth?

A gift through your will—a bequest—is the most common way to continue your support of Friends of the Earth. Here are several forms of bequests explained:

The Residuary Bequest

This directs that we receive either everything remaining in your estate or a designated percentage of your estate after all necessary costs, general bequests and specific bequests are satisfied. This type of gift allows you the flexibility of making several primary bequests while ensuring that FOE will be a secondary beneficiary of your estate.

The General Bequest

The most familiar type is the general bequest, which specifies that FOE will receive a designated sum. For example, you might make a general bequest of \$25,000. You may prefer this arrangement because it is considered a “primary charge against your estate” (which means it will almost certainly be fulfilled).

The Percentage Bequest

The percentage bequest states that we will receive a certain predetermined percentage of your estate (such as 10% or 25%).

The Specific Bequest

When making a specific bequest, you are directing that one particular property be transferred to FOE, such as a certain piece of real estate, the stock from a named company or some other designated property. This type of bequest is ideal for individuals wishing to give stocks or a valuable art object. Note: A specific bequest can be satisfied only with the designated property. If that property has been sold or otherwise removed from the estate, the bequest will not be received.

The Contingent Bequest

As the name implies, this bequest is “contingent” on some event. Usually, you might make a primary bequest for a relative, with the contingency that if that relative predeceases you, the bequest will pass to Friends of the Earth.

For more information, return the enclosed reply card or contact Caroline Bruder, planned giving officer, at (202) 222-0726.

A Free Gift From Friends of the Earth

We're excited to offer a free gift to help you prepare for the future and ensure your values live on indefinitely! Creating a will is one of the most impactful ways to support the people and causes you love. We've partnered with FreeWill to give you an easy way to write your legally valid will today. Many people also like to include a gift to Friends of the Earth to ensure a healthy planet and people for decades to come.

The service is free whether or not you choose to include Friends of the Earth. You can also use the tools to start your will and document your wishes before visiting an attorney. Visit www.FreeWill.com/FOE to get started today (and you can make changes at any time)!

Give to Friends of the Earth Through Your IRA

Tax-free IRA gifts, called qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), have special appeal for our friends who are over age 70½. Generally, up to \$100,000 per year can be given through your IRA. Even those who don't need to take required minimum distributions until age 72 (IRA owners turning 70½ in 2020 or later) may still make QCDs from their IRAs.

Because most funds withdrawn from IRAs are considered income, your total taxable income is increased, pushing you into a higher tax bracket. Distributions directly to Friends of the Earth from your IRA will not, however, be included in your taxable income whether or not you normally itemize your charitable gifts and other deductible expenses.

Here are some advantages to giving to Friends of the Earth through your IRA:

1. You do not owe taxes on the withdrawal, while the amounts given still count toward your required minimum distribution amount.

Leaving a Legacy for the Planet

Bay to spot polluters. His proudest achievement was helping secure the first jail sentence for polluters in San Francisco Bay.

“A boatyard owner was illegally dredging polluted sediment from his boatyard and dumping it just outside his property,” Mike shared. “One of our volunteers kayaked out at night to document the pollution, and we reported it to the EPA’s criminal investigation service, which resulted in an indictment and a one-year jail sentence for the boatyard owner.”

In 1989, Mike co-founded San Francisco Baykeeper to help protect the Bay from pollution. Environmentalists were eager to create their own waterkeeper groups, and now there are over 350 waterkeeper groups across the world—all part of the Waterkeeper Alliance.

Also in 1989, the Oceanic Society merged with Friends of the Earth. Mike saw firsthand Friends of the Earth’s grassroots approach to advocating for clean and healthy waterways and oceans and quickly became a member of the FOE board. He has since served two terms as chair of



- 2.** Some taxpayers are subject to limits on the amount of charitable gifts they can deduct. These limitations do not apply to QCDs.
- 3.** You won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your other income to higher levels of taxation.

If you are interested in making an IRA gift to Friends of the Earth this year, return the enclosed reply card, ask your IRA custodian for a form to arrange for a QCD or contact us.

continued from Page 1

the board. “FOE’s worldwide network means it can have a much bigger impact than most organizations based in just one country,” he said.

Now 85, “finally reaching middle age,” he said with a grin, Mike has no plans to slow down his advocacy and is eager to ensure his generous support for the planet continues for years to come. This is why Mike included a gift in his will to Friends of the Earth as part of his legacy for the planet. “Friends of the Earth is an amazing organization doing worldwide work, and I want that work to continue after my lifetime,” he said.

Moving forward, Mike says the biggest challenge facing our planet is climate change. “Friends of the Earth will continue to turn the dial back on climate change,” he said. “We must reduce the impact of climate change for the next generation.”

Mike’s message for those who are deciding where to direct their charitable giving for the environment is simple: “Friends of the Earth delivers more bang for every buck than practically any other environmental organization.”

The “Five P’s” of Estate Planning

If you have been planning to make your will but aren't sure how to get started, here is some practical help.

How do I go about making a will?

First, make an appointment with an attorney. Before you meet with them, carefully consider your estate using the “Five P’s” of estate planning:

- 1. People** in your life for whom you feel responsible and/or wish to remember.
- 2. Property** you own, including homes, automobiles, securities, jewelry and other assets.
- 3. Plans** for the property, such as a dollar amount or the estate percentage you want each person to receive. You may also wish to remember charitable organizations you have supported during your lifetime, like Friends of the Earth.
- 4. Planners** you want to consult about these decisions, for example: your attorney, accountant and others.
- 5. The Planet**—and finally, your gift to Friends of the Earth will ensure we can continue to fight for a healthier and more just world to leave to future generations.

More information

Making sure your plans are in order gives you peace of mind that your wishes will be carried out in the future. Your long-range estate and financial plans deserve careful attention. If we can answer any questions or provide more information to you or your advisors, please contact us.

The purpose of this publication is solely educational, namely to provide general gift, estate, financial planning and related information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice, and you should not rely on it as such. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate and qualified advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Consult a tax and/or accounting specialist for advice regarding tax and accounting related matters. © Copyright 2022 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NNNPDF-22



For more information on ways to include Friends of the Earth in your estate plans, please contact:

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THE “FIVE P’S” OF ESTATE PLANNING



PEOPLE



PROPERTY



THE PLANET



PLANS



PLANNERS

Considering a Bequest?

If you are considering making Friends of the Earth a part of your legacy, please accept our thanks. Here is some suggested wording to share with your attorney:

“After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise and bequeath _____% of the remainder [or \$ _____] of my estate to Friends of the Earth, a District of Columbia charitable corporation [tax ID #23-7420660] currently having offices at 1101 15th Street NW, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005.”

Have you already made a gift through your estate plans? Please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to our Shared Earth Society.

