Bequests

A bequest is a gift defined by precise distribution instructions in a will or trust. Bequests can be specific (a named asset), percentage (a portion of the estate), residual (what remains after expenses and all other bequests have been distributed), or contingent (only when the original recipient cannot accept the bequest).

Concept applied:
A donor can use a charitable bequest in a will or trust to meet personal goals and make a meaningful charitable impact while retaining the ability to alter the gift should future circumstances or preferences change.

How it works:
Grace Yampolsky wants to include a charitable gift in her will. She considers making a specific bequest of 100 shares of stock, but realizes this gift will surely change in value over time—perhaps significantly. Instead, she decides to leave a percentage gift—40% of her estate to each of her two children and 20% to charity. When Grace dies, her executor will carry out her wishes by distributing her assets according to her instructions.

Why is it useful?
A bequest in a will or trust is an important way to ensure the distribution of property at death in a way that can be changed if necessary. A bequest is flexible in amount, form, and type of property, and lets individuals retain full control of assets throughout life.
From the telescope to the printing press to the steam engine, technological revolutions have always transformed the human condition. But never has there been a technological revolution set to change our world in pace, scope, and scale as the one in which we are currently immersed. Nonexistent only a lifetime ago, the forces of change brought on by the computing revolution are permanent, universal, and accelerating at an exponential rate. Great opportunities and great challenges have arisen on a scale never seen before.

This complex present and even more uncertain future requires a new citizenship—one that is equipped with knowledge, inspired by vision, and empowered to take action; one that values problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration; one that sets innovation and leadership in pursuit of equitable growth; and one committed to creating a sustainable future and improving the quality of life for this generation and the next.

CHM is in a unique position to empower people as catalysts for change inside our current technological revolution. CHM is using its extensive network and historical expertise amassed over four decades to promote a new citizenship for the digital age, bringing together companies and nonprofits, government leaders and policymakers, scholars and educators—because it will take all of us working together to build the future we envision.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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