

# YOUR GIVING STORY

## A Letter to the Future



Your letter to the future is about sharing your giving story in words. It's a way to tell family, future generations and friends about your giving goals and vision. It can be a single paragraph or longer, include a poem, describe an important time in your life, and more. This letter doesn't need to be polished. What's important is it shares your values with those who will continue your legacy.

### Let's Start

**Welcome.** Introduce family, future generations, friends and successor advisors to your charitable fund.

### First Paragraph

**Motivations for your donor advised fund.** This paragraph can share two things:

1. What you experienced in your life and what is important to you as a result. This often includes faith background, people who played important roles and life-changing events.
2. Why these experiences motivated you to support certain charities and causes.

Many end this paragraph with wishes for those who become your fund's future advisors. My/our hope is...

### Middle Paragraph

**Giving details.** This is where you write about what kinds of issues, causes or organizations you have supported during your life and why — or the causes and organizations you want to support going forward.

### Last Paragraph

**Giving goals and vision.** Here is where you share what you want your giving to achieve. Talk about what the world will be like because of your charitable support.

### Closing

**Final thoughts.** Close your letter with whatever you want to share in summary. You can also thank your successor advisors for this work as they take on the advisor role of your fund.

If you have designated successor advisors to your donor advised fund at InFaith Community Foundation, this letter provides them with an understanding of your giving motivations and interests. Once completed, please send a copy to InFaith for your donor advised fund documents, so we can better understand your giving goals and ensure your intentions are met.

*(continued, over)*

## SAMPLE LETTER

The following example is provided to help you with your letter-writing process. It represents what two donors wrote to their children to share their charitable values and guide the future of the fund.

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*Dear Rachel, Chris and future descendants,*

*It is with great joy that we establish this charitable fund and legacy. Throughout our lives, we have been giving to our church and our community. Our giving is a reflection of our faith and taught to us by our parents. We want to pass that value and commitment to you, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations. We hope this fund will be kept alive for many generations, benefiting causes and charities that have been important to us, to you, and to our shared community.*

*During our lifetimes, the areas we have supported include our church, faith-based global relief efforts (i.e., Lutheran World Relief) and local scholarships for seniors graduating from high school.*

*We believe that faith, church and supporting our younger generations is core to our society and our future. Through financial support to the church and providing educational scholarships to graduating seniors, we feel we can make a difference. Along with local concerns, we also want to benefit our global neighbors through faith-based organizations that affirm God's love for all people by working to relieve poverty and human suffering.*

*We hope these areas will continue to be benefited far into the future, but also empower you to carry on our family values in ways that will make the most sense and impact for the changing needs of our society.*

*Love always,  
Mom & Dad*



Spreading Joy. Changing Lives.

InFaith Community Foundation is a national charity with a mission to serve donors, spread joy and change lives. Through InFaith, giving is customized to each donor's charitable interests and financial circumstances. InFaith is a proven steward of these gifts, earning consistently high ratings from Charity Navigator and GuideStar for sound fiscal management, transparency and commitment to excellence. Together with donors, InFaith grants millions of dollars annually to charities serving local, national and global communities. To learn more, visit [inFaithFound.org](http://inFaithFound.org).

### WE OFFER

- Donor advised funds, giving circles, collaborative funds and organizational endowments
- Full range of giving options, from simple to complex
- Flexibility to give to any charity
- Maximum tax benefits based on when and how you give
- Donor-centered services including online access and family giving resources
- Mission-based investments for charitable assets