



What Will You Leave Behind?

by Patricia Rambasek, CFRE,
Director of Development
and Communications

Footprints. Everyone leaves footprints. Our footprints are made by the impression of our lives on the sands of time. A person is remembered for:

Character
Accomplishments
Kindness
Compassion
Humor
Generosity
Values.

When we leave positive impressions behind, we enhance the lives of our friends and loved ones. We give them footprints to follow.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means we have to make a print in the sand, to help others recall our values. For example, consider the effect of a plan that not only includes provision for family members, but resources for charitable organizations like the National Aviary.

An Estate Gift Makes a Positive Statement. When you include the National Aviary in the final disposition of your estate, you declare to your family and friends that you believe in and care about the mission of the National Aviary. Your parting gift becomes a clear declaration of your values.

An Estate Gift Provides Needed Funding. Estate gifts are especially valuable not only because they tend to be larger than annual gifts, but because they often come at critical times. They provide that extra boost to the budget that can make the difference between program advancement and program retrenchment.

Estate gifts can be designated for a specific purpose or they can be unrestricted for use where needed most. They can fund endowments that perpetually provide an ongoing witness to your friends and loved ones that you believe in the work of the National Aviary.

An Estate Gift Encourages Imitation. There's something about a well-planned estate gift that influences others to "go and do likewise." As friends and family members plan their own estates, they may recall your generosity and thoughtfulness. Your gift may unlock resources for the National Aviary from other estates.

A gift from your estate can make a world of difference for birds and the National Aviary. If you would like to discuss ways you can make an estate gift, please contact Patricia Rambasek at 412-323-7235 extension 214 or patti.rambasek@aviary.org. Thank you for considering support of our mission in this meaningful way.

