

Endowment Building Articles

Engage your donors through media.

You can build awareness about your organization's endowment in a number of ways. Whether you choose to run an article in your organization's newsletter or place an opinion editorial article in a local newspaper, you will find the Yampa Valley's endowment building articles a good place to start.

Think about creative ways you can use these articles to help educate those who are close to your organization. Whether it is donors, members or volunteers, they should understand the importance of planning for your long-term future.



Article 1: Bequests

In the end we are all remembered for our acts, for the lives we touch and by the causes we advance. In that respect, perhaps the most important thing that you could do to create a lasting legacy in our community would be to include the following provision in your Last Will and Testament:

“I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ [or state a percentage of the residual estate] to the [your organization] endowment fund at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, a Colorado non-profit and section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.”

This simple language is all it takes to create a perpetual gift that will help to carry on [your organization]'s mission forever. The word “endowment” means simply that the gift initially contributed will be held by YVCF and invested for the benefit of [your organization].

The earnings from these investments will be contributed to [your organization] every year and then used by [your organization] to fulfill its mission.

Although endowments can be created anonymously, endowments also can bear the name of their creator. This practice both memorializes those who made the gifts from the endowment possible and inspires others to do the same.

To learn more about making a charitable bequest for [your organization], please contact [your organization's contact person and contact info]. You may also contact Susan Petersen, Community Impact Manager at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation at 970.879.8632.



Article 2 - Why an endowment fund?

The future is hard to predict. But one thing we do know is that we will need resources to fuel our mission in years to come. That's why we've established the [your organization] endowment fund at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation. The fund is professionally invested for the longterm. Each year, 5% of the average fund balance is distributed to us to support our ongoing needs. That's why our endowment fund is at the Community Foundation.

Our endowment fund benefits from the Foundation's investment expertise and from being part of a large portfolio. The Foundation also handles all administrative details and investment responsibilities for our fund, freeing our staff to concentrate on our mission.

You can play a part. There are a variety of ways to give that provide you with maximum tax and financial benefits. They include:

- A gift made in your will or trust;
- A gift that pays you income for life;
- A gift of life insurance or retirement plan assets.

We hope you will play a part in our future. To learn more please contact [your organization's contact person and contact info]. You may contact Susan Petersen, Community Impact Manager at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation at 970.879.8632.

Article 3 - Beneficiary Designations

You can make a great difference to our mission and our future just the way you are...whether or not you have all your estate planning documents up-to-date. Every gift matters and you can leave a legacy gift to our endowment fund during your lifetime.

The following are three ways you can make this important gift to our endowment fund:

- Life Insurance beneficiary designation;
- Retirement plan beneficiary designation;
- Fixed or variable annuity beneficiary designation.

After obtaining the appropriate beneficiary designation form, you can make a gift that takes effect upon your death. The gift may be the entire account or a percentage of it. You may also make it effective only if certain other beneficiaries predecease you. By making the gift payable to "the [your organization] Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, a Colorado nonprofit corporation", you can be assured that your gift will receive expert stewardship and help [your organization] meet our long-term needs. Of course, while these beneficiary designation gifts do not require that you make changes to your will and trust documents, they should be considered in light of your overall financial and estate plan.

To learn more about making a legacy gift to [your organization]'s endowment fund, please contact [your organization's contact person and contact info]. You may contact Susan Petersen, Community Impact Manager at the Yampa Valley Community Foundation at 970.879.8632 or Susan@yvcf.org.

Please note: This information should not be considered as legal, tax, or financial advice. Consult your professional advisor(s) for further information and guidance.