Leaving a Legacy
“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone. The things you do for others remain as your legacy.”

– Kalu Ndukwe Kalu, educator

Etched into a polished limestone wall in the shadow of California’s State Capitol are the names of hundreds of firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty. Their legacy of service inspires our firefighter “family.”

Estate planning allows every person, regardless of age or wealth, to leave their own legacy … for their loved ones and for the values they cherish. Through a legacy gift to the California Fire Foundation, you can secure the future of your own family and your firefighter family.

This booklet lays out how you can achieve your own goals, provide for your loved ones and make a difference for future generations.

The information in this booklet does not constitute legal or financial advice. You are encouraged to discuss all options with your own advisors before deciding on the best choice for you.
WHY ESTATE PLANNING?

Simply put, your estate is the sum total of everything you own – home, car, possessions, investments, everything. No matter how much or little you make, everyone has an estate.

Estate planning is a way of ensuring that these assets are transferred to your heirs and charitable interests in accordance with your wishes. You can fully control how your assets are directed either through a will or living trust or by identifying the beneficiary of specific assets or accounts.

While it can be a difficult subject, proper estate planning will not only prepare for the future, but also can provide immediate benefit to you and your heirs. You can also memorialize your commitment to the California Fire Foundation’s work on behalf of fallen firefighter families.

The California Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento carries the names of approximately 1,300 California firefighters who died in the line of duty.
The California Fire Foundation Legacy Society is an exclusive group of donors united in their passion for ensuring the dream of a college education for the children of our fallen and sustaining the California Firefighters Memorial.

When you include the Foundation in your estate planning, you become a part of the California Fire Foundation Legacy Society. Donors that designate $20,000 or more will be honored with a personalized leaf on our “Legacy Tree”, located in the Foundation headquarters.

To learn more about the California Fire Foundation Legacy Society, or to notify us of a gift, please visit our website at www.cafirefoundation.org/plannedgiving.

“As a firefighter, and the son of a fallen firefighter, this Memorial means a lot to me. The Foundation is there for our surviving families and the people they served. Remembering the Foundation in estate planning honors their legacy and helps those who mattered most to them.”

– Vito Impastato, Contra Costa fire captain (son of fallen firefighter, Michael Impastato)
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST

A proper estate plan begins with a will or living trust. Making a will (and keeping it up to date) gives you peace of mind in knowing that your estate will be handled according to your wishes.

A charitable bequest to the California Fire Foundation in your will or living trust is a simple, flexible way to support the children and survivors of fallen firefighters. There are many types of charitable bequests:

- **General**: a designated amount of money, such as “$10,000”
- **Specific**: a specified item, such as a home, valuable item or shares of stock
- **Percentage**: a designated amount of money, such as “10 percent”
- **Residuary**: some or all of whatever is left of your estate after all general and specific bequests are satisfied
- **Contingent**: takes effect only in the event another bequest fails, e.g. if a loved one dies before you do.

Suggested language for these requests is available. Contact the Foundation or your financial advisor for more information.

Charitable bequests can provide significant estate-tax benefits. Your tax advisor can provide more details.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

A beneficiary designation is an easy, flexible way to support the Foundation’s mission.

All or part of the proceeds from individual assets can be directed to the California Fire Foundation upon your passing. Examples include:

- Life insurance policies
- IRA or retirement account

Arrangements for beneficiary designations are very simple, usually made through filling out a simple form. Your financial advisor can help you with this easy process.

Samantha Murray (center, in pink) lost her father John Murray in 1995, but her Folsom firefighter family will never let her down. A Daniel A. Terry Scholarship is helping her get an education.
"I give to the California Fire Foundation because it gives back to all of us. I want to make sure the Foundation is always there for families like mine, so we’ve made the California Fire Foundation part of our estate planning."

– Emily Lo, Davis fire captain

Making a Plan – Sample Scenarios

Modifying a Will
Wanting to leave a legacy for her fire family, firefighter Emily and her husband met with their attorney. They revised the bequest language in their will to include a gift to the California Fire Foundation as a percentage of their estate. Through this gift, Emily helps provide for her own family as well as those who’ve lost a loved one fighting on the front lines.

Life Insurance Beneficiary
Mildred, an advertising consultant, has a $50,000 life insurance policy she no longer needs. It has a cash surrender value of about $32,000 and she continues to make annual premium payments of $1,100. She names the California Fire Foundation as owner and beneficiary of the policy, securing a tax deduction of about $32,000 and an ongoing deduction for her annual payments to keep the policy in force.

*Retirement Account Designation
With their kids grown and financially secure, Robert and Carol wanted their estate plan to work harder for the people and causes they love. The couple updated their will to leave stocks and real estate to their kids. And they leave us a $20,000 IRA to be transferred to the California Fire Foundation after their death. The Foundation’s tax-exempt status ensures that all $20,000 will support the cause they cherish.

*Based on an assumption of a 28 marginal income tax bracket.

NOTE: Each of these scenarios may have significant potential tax benefits. Consult your tax advisor for more details.
The California Fire Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, provides emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect through an array of survivor and victim assistance projects and community initiatives. These initiatives include:

The California Firefighters Memorial
Located on the grounds of the California State Capitol, the California Firefighters Memorial is California’s timeless tribute to its fallen heroes. The California Fire Foundation raised the money to build the Memorial and takes care of its maintenance, repair and expansion. Each year, the Foundation honors the fallen at the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, and provides ongoing support for surviving families.

The Daniel A. Terry Scholarship Program
Named for California Professional Firefighters longtime president emeriti, the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship program provides college scholarships of $2,000 to the surviving children of fallen firefighters. Since its inception, more than $120,000 in scholarship funds has been awarded, helping young people realize their dream of a college education. Through the California Firefighters Endowment, the Foundation is working to increase scholarship awards to $10,000 per student. After this milestone is reached, the Foundation aims to do even more by someday giving children the opportunity to have their college expenses completely covered.
Your planned gift is an enduring tribute to our fallen heroes and a comfort to the families they leave behind. Contact us to get started:

By phone  
(800) 890-3213

By email  
cafirefoundation@cpf.org

Online  
Fill out the online form at  
www.cafirefoundation.org/plannedgiving