
Hope for the Future

March 30, 2007



When Warren Buffett and Bill Gates announced their philanthropic partnership last year, I was impressed by their generosity and the impact they will undoubtedly have on their selected issues and charities. Even a fraction of their combined fortunes involves a tremendous amount of power to affect change.

It prompted me to think about how all of us, in our individual ways, can ensure the future of the organizations and causes we care about. We can do this through a legacy gift such as a bequest. Such gifts can and will collectively make a difference in the life and future of our community's schools, synagogues and agencies. A bequest, regardless of size, creates a legacy for the giver and provides a voice to the future

Legacy gifts are the focus of Live On, Rose Community Foundation's two-year initiative that is helping 28 of our Denver-area Jewish schools, agencies and synagogues build for the future through bequests. Some of our leading institutions are enlisting supporters to go a step beyond annual giving by also leaving a gift in our wills and estate plans to endow the organizations' important work. Live On emphasizes a need for Jewish individuals to consider both the present and the future in our giving.

By giving what we can from our income, we support the present. By leaving a bequest for the purpose of endowment, we help ensure that the institutions that represent our most treasured values will thrive for future generations. Building your own Jewish legacy is easy, regardless of age or wealth; a variety of estate planning instruments is available to meet your individual needs.

We may tend to think that our individual legacy gift can't make a big difference. But the impact of legacy giving comes from the power in numbers. In just 16 months, participating Live On institutions have raised an estimated \$19 million from close to 270 planned gifts. This is significant especially when you consider the multitude of gifts from members of our community that have already been given in the form of a planned gift or as part of an estate plan.

Whether our families have lived here for generations, or whether we are beginning to put down roots, now is the time to plan for the kind of Jewish community that our children and children's children will inherit. This means that all of us, in our estate plans, wills and personal philanthropy, must help the organizations we care about secure their futures through endowments.

Arlene Hirschfeld
Chair, Board of Trustees
Rose Community Foundation