

“Now-quests” or Bequests? You can choose the timing of your gift to the Endowment Fund.

Bequests are a major source of income for many endowments funds. From your perspective as the donor, the major advantage of making your donation as a bequest in your will or trust is that you can be sure you no longer need the donated funds. However, a large disadvantage of donating by way of a bequest is that you cannot see the donation at work during your lifetime.

You can choose the timing of your gift by considering a “now-quest”! Rather than delay the donation until the administration of your will or trust has been completed, which can often take up to a year, consider advancing all or part of your intended bequest NOW to the Endowment Fund, as a ‘living’ gift to be able to see it at work. This will allow you to see the benefits of your donation during your lifetime!

Another advantage of “now-quests” for some people is tax savings. For those who itemize deductions, “now-quests” should be tax deductible. Bequests only save on estate taxes if your estate exceeds the exclusion amount, which is currently \$13.61 million (the exclusion amount may be much lower after 2025).

In addition to including a traditional bequest in your will or trust, remember that you can also make a bequest by designating the Endowment Fund as a direct beneficiary of your assets (i.e. bank accounts, CDs, brokerage accounts, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, etc.). The benefit of making your bequest by direct beneficiary designation is that you have the flexibility to change those designations later, if needed.