FROM THE PRESIDENT

President David Whitlock

One of the indications of what a special place Bison Hill is are the stories of transformation told by former students. The stories are made even more compelling as those alumni express their intentions of naming Oklahoma Baptist University as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

Think about it. When we start estate planning, our first and foremost concern is providing for our loved ones. That OBU would be counted among those dearest to the heart and that it would share in any way at all in the resources left behind is deeply moving to me. To those of you who have already included Oklahoma Baptist University in your estate plan, we consider your generosity a sacred trust for impacting students.

It is our prayer that you continue to find the information in these newsletters helpful. As always, feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way. May God continue to bless OBU.

Dr. David Whitlock
President

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• Why Create a Will?
• Your Pet Never Lets You Down...Return the Favor
• Giving Your IRA to Loved Ones? Think Carefully
WHY CREATE A WILL?
You Can Do More Than You May Realize

When you create a will, you ensure the most productive use of your money for the benefit of those individuals and causes you care about.

Look at the many other good things your will can do:

• You can direct the division of your property the way you choose, not the way the state decides.
• You can make special financial arrangements for family members who are minors, disabled or unfamiliar with money management.
• You can support the future of Oklahoma Baptist University.
• You can select an executor who is qualified to settle your estate promptly and economically with careful attention to your wishes.
• You can name a proper guardian for any minor children.
• You can devise an estate plan, with the help of a qualified attorney and other advisors, to minimize the taxes on your estate.
• Most of all, with a current will, you can make sure your estate will be given to individuals you care about and help avoid family misunderstandings.

Are you considering a gift to Oklahoma Baptist University in your will? We would be happy to answer any questions and show you how your future gift can make a difference. Contact us at 405.585.5412 or email development@okbu.edu today.

DO YOU WANT TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE AFTER YOUR LIFETIME?

If so, there are several ways you can do this in your will. Here are some suggestions:

• You can leave Oklahoma Baptist University a specific amount of cash or securities.
• You can leave us a share of what's left in your estate after other obligations are met.
• You can make a contingent gift, allowing you to leave a portion of your estate to us if one or more of your named beneficiaries do not survive you.
• You can create a trust to pay an income to your spouse or other relative for life and designate the remaining balance for Oklahoma Baptist University.
Most pet owners would agree that their pets are as much a part of the family as any human member. But what will happen to your pet after you pass away? A rising trend in estate planning is to set up a trust specifically for your pet.

A pet trust is created for the continued care and maintenance of a particular animal or animals. The trust is funded with money or property, and a trustee is named to administer the trust. The concept is much like that of naming a guardian to care for a minor child.

**TRUST SPECIFICS**

There are many important issues to consider when setting up a pet trust. The most crucial decision is who to name as trustee. You will want to name a trustee who can be depended on and who will keep the pet’s best interests in mind. Be sure to name a contingent trustee in the event your first trustee cannot care for your animal.

Also, consider who will receive the trust assets after the pet passes away. This may or may not affect how the pet is treated and if lifesaving measures will be used. Many people consider leaving the remainder to an organization like Oklahoma Baptist University.

In some states, pet trusts are only valid for a certain number of years, usually 21. This may create a problem with long-lived companion animals, such as horses, birds or fish. Therefore, you may need to devise a plan for continuing care beyond the term of the trust.

**MAKE SURE IT’S LEGAL**

Nearly all states have laws in effect that make pet trusts legally binding. Speak with a qualified estate planning attorney about the laws of your state to devise a plan that works for you.
MAKE A TAX-FREE GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

Are you 70½ years old or older? Congress has reinstated a law that allows you to give up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified institution such as Oklahoma Baptist University without having to pay income taxes on the money. Contact us at 405.585.5412 or email development@okbu.edu today to learn more about this tax-smart way to make an impact today at Oklahoma Baptist University.

GIVING YOUR IRA TO LOVED ONES?
Think Carefully

While IRAs are excellent vehicles for accumulating assets for your use during retirement, much to many people’s surprise, they are a far less attractive way to pass an inheritance to loved ones. Here’s why.

THE TAX CONSEQUENCES OF IRAs

When you name anyone other than your spouse as beneficiary of your IRA, it will be exposed to heavy taxation, leaving less for your heirs than you had hoped. Upon your passing, the income tax bill can take as much as 39.6 percent, and that percentage can be even higher if your estate is subject to estate taxes.

A CHARITABLE SOLUTION

If you’ve thought about contributing to Oklahoma Baptist University, consider giving IRA assets to us and giving other assets that are not as heavily taxed to family members. As a nonprofit organization, we are tax-exempt, so we can use 100 percent of your IRA. To get this process started:

1. Decide what percentage (1–100) you would like us to receive.
2. Contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form.
3. Name Oklahoma Baptist University and the gift percentage on the form.
4. Return the form to your IRA administrator.
5. Let us know about your plans so we can thank you. (We will also honor your preference for anonymity).

If you have any questions about providing support to Oklahoma Baptist University through your IRA, please contact us at 405.585.5412 or email development@okbu.edu.
① I have already included your organization in my will or trust. Do I need to do anything to let you know?
A Please share this good news with us by picking up the phone or sending us an email. That way we can ensure that your gift will be used exactly as you intend. Plus, it would be our honor to thank you for your gift. Your generosity may also inspire others to consider this simple way to extend their support. We will respect any wishes regarding anonymity, of course.

② Do I have a say in how my gift is used?
A It is your gift, so you should not be afraid to voice your thoughts and ideas about how the donation could be used.

Most of our supporters create an unrestricted bequest, which allows us to use the assets to meet our most pressing needs. This is our preferred type of bequest because it allows flexibility as our needs change over time.

If you wish to support a specific program or fund, please share that information with us and we will work with you to accommodate your request.

③ I am interested in adding a bequest to my will or trust. How do I get started?
A First, decide how much you would like to give and what to give—you can fund a bequest with cash, securities, property or other assets. Remember even a small amount can make a big difference to those we serve.

Then, share our sample bequest language with your estate planning attorney to create the gift. It’s that simple!
How does this kind of gift work?
With a gift in your will or revocable living trust, you can give a percentage of your estate or a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, our organization will use your gift to support our mission. Although this is one of the simplest ways to support our future, you will need the help of a qualified estate planning attorney. Your attorney can help you create a bequest that allows you to meet your personal, financial and philanthropic goals. Contact us for sample bequest language you can share with your attorney to complete your gift.

What are the main benefits of a bequest?
Bequests are consistently among the most popular ways our supporters choose to provide long-term support for our organization, in large part because this type of gift is so simple to set up. Here are two other key benefits of a gift in your will or trust:
1. You can change your mind at any time. A bequest does not go into effect until after you are gone, giving you the opportunity to update or amend your gift at any time during your lifetime. Plus, since you’re not actually parting with assets today, you don’t need to worry that you won’t have enough to live on in the future should your circumstances change. This flexibility allows you to balance your generosity with your concerns about living expenses and future medical costs.
2. You have options. You can make a donation of a specific amount, but that’s not the only option. Most of us don’t have a firm grasp on the sizes of our estates, and because it’s hard to place monetary values on belongings with sentimental meaning, making a gift of a percentage is a perfect option. Whatever your final estate’s value, you can use a portion of it to benefit our organization and rest easy that your loved ones will also be taken care of. Even a small percentage can make a significant impact.

We are extremely grateful for your donations. Large or small—every dollar makes a difference. If you want to ensure that your support for our organization continues even after you are gone, you may be interested in the simplicity of a gift in your will or trust, also known as a bequest. Here are some common questions about this popular way to give, along with their answers.

- How much should I give?
- What are the main benefits of a bequest?
- How does this kind of gift work?

Even a gift of 5–10 percent of your estate can make a big difference to us. Contact us to learn more about supporting our work through your will or trust.

Don’t be afraid to have an honest conversation with your loved ones about your plans and your desire to support our organization in the future. They may be more supportive than you expect, especially when they understand why you feel the way you do.