The ICC's Legacy Giving Program

What is Legacy Giving?

Also called Planned Giving, Legacy giving refers to donations that supporters plan to give to nonprofits after their passing. Legacy giving is also commonly referred to as "planned giving" because donors often plan these gifts years before they are distributed to the designated parties.

You do not have to be a large donor or wealthy to give to the ICC! Nor do you have to be deceased! Any type of organized "plan" for giving to the ICC qualifies you as a legacy giver!

Why is Legacy Giving Important?

These donations will allow the ICC to move from maintenance firefighting by allowing us the staffing and funding to fully repair longstanding maintenance issues. Staying ahead of urgent repairs would allow the ICC to pivot towards implementing a long-term strategy to overhaul our houses and transform them into models of energy efficiency. This would make the houses much more comfortable, fill our houses in the summer, and enable us to move until the 21st century for heating **and cooling** our houses.

My dad (Luther Buchele) always wished he'd done more to speak to alumni about legacy giving. We all know that the lessons we learn in the coops are with us for life. He fervently hoped that alumni would help to build sustainable endowments to help the ICC keep housing affordable, build a strong alumni association, "green" our houses for the foreseeable future, and provide stable sources of funding in leaner times. Our houses are our greatest assets, and the best way to preserve them is to invest in the long-deferred maintenance that will sustain them for the next 100 years.

Easy Ways to Become a Legacy Donor

It is a myth that you have to be wealthy to be a legacy donor. Many people do planned giving all the time and don't know it! When you start a new job, you sometimes fill out all sorts of forms designating beneficiaries. I used to put my sister. But I could have designated the ICC! You also do not have to wait to become a planned giver. The ICC considers several options, like Donations through Shares, Donor Advised Funds and Qualified Charitable Donations to be planned giving.

- **Donate Your Shares.** You can choose to donate your shares back to the ICC. Just indicate what % of your shares you'd like to return!
- **Add us as a beneficiary on your last paycheck!** When you start a new job, many jobs will ask you who you want to receive your last paycheck if something happens while you're working for them. You can designate as many beneficiaries as you want. Add the ICC as a partial or full beneficiary!
- **Add the ICC as a beneficiary on your life insurance.** If you get life insurance through your job, you'll have to designate a beneficiary. Did you know you can choose multiple beneficiaries for your life insurance? Just fill out a beneficiary allocation form and add the ICC! Even a small percentage allocation can have huge benefits for the ICC
- **Add the ICC as a beneficiary on your 401 (k) or 403 (b) or IRA.** Fill out a beneficiary allocation form and allocate a percentage to the ICC. Even a small percentage can have a huge impact on our finances.
- **Qualified Minimum Donation** from a traditional IRA. When you reach the age of 73 ½, you must disburse a minimum amount from your IRA every year (RMD). To avoid the tax penalty, you may roll over a certain amount to a charity. This saves a significant amount in taxes and benefits the charity!
    - For example, the 2026 tax year, the annual limit for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA is $111,000 per individual. What this means is that instead of paying required taxes from a minimum required distribution, you may instead contribute part or all of that amount to charities (with a total maximum of $111,000 per individual) and avoid the taxes imposed on the portion of the RMD contributed to charities. Married couples filing jointly can each make a QCD, allowing a total of up to $222,000 annually).
    - This transfer is tax free only if made directly from an IRA account to an eligible charity after age 73½ or older. The tax benefit is significantly better than if the donations to charities are made from other sources i.e. checking account, savings account, or brokerage account.
- **Donor Advised Funds (DAF).** If you are working with a Donor Advised Fund, please let them know that you would like to add the ICC to your list of charities!
- **Estate/Bequest Gifts:** You can leave property or cash in their will to fund long-term projects.

- **Retained Life Estate:** You can deed their home to the ICC now, get a tax deduction, and continue living there for the rest of their lives. Upon your death, the house would be donated to the Inter-Cooperative Council.

Benefits of Being a Legacy Donor

Personal Recognition and Greater Ties to the ICC: The ICC plans to have an annual dinner for legacy givers in Ann Arbor. We will also hold special annual meetings online to update you on the ICC's projects

Significant Personal Impact: Legacy giving often allows you to make a much larger contribution than would be possible during your lifetime, as it is based on your total accumulated wealth rather than just immediate cash flow.

Estate and Inheritance Tax Savings: Charitable bequests are generally deductible from your estate's taxable value, which can significantly reduce or even eliminate estate tax liability for your heirs.

Retained Control and Flexibility: Most legacy gifts, such as bequests in a will, allow you to maintain full access and control over your assets while you are alive. You can often adjust or update these plans if your financial situation or family needs change.

Avoidance of Capital Gains Tax: By donating appreciated assets like stocks or real estate through your estate, you can bypass capital gains taxes, maximizing the amount that goes to the charity.

Creating a Lasting Family Tradition: Legacy giving can set a powerful philanthropic example for children and grandchildren, helping to instill shared family values and involve future generations in charitable work.

How Do I Become a Legacy Giver?

1. (Current Members): Contact the finance office (Kyle LaChance kyle@icc.coop) to designate the ICC on your Share Return Form. Also email Libbie Buchele (foc@icc.coop) so that she can invite you to legacy donor events
2. Change the beneficiary designations on your last paycheck disbursal, life insurance, 401(k) or IRA forms and email Libbie Buchele (foc@icc.coop) so that she can invite you to legacy donor events.
3. For larger donations, contact Libbie Buchele (foc@icc.coop) to set up a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) outlining your planned bequest.