



## **Planned Giving**

### **3 Planned Giving Myths: Explained**

#### **What is planned giving?**

Planned giving is a way to support charitable organizations, like Chicago Engineers Foundation, by making gifts using your estate. This could include a gift in your will, or by designating your retirement plan assets as a charitable gift. This type of support requires some advance planning, with future tax benefits. Most take effect in the future as a final way to leave your legacy (and therefore do not affect your present finances).

#### **Myth 1: An estate has to be large to make an impact.**

Explained: By including Chicago Engineers Foundation in your estate plan, for any amount, you make a lasting impact and a tremendous difference. An estate may be larger than you think. Non-cash assets, like insurance policies and stocks, are often a significant part of an estate.

#### **Myth 2: I am too young to think about making a will.**

Explained: If you have property (even a car), you have an estate. Documenting your wishes in a will is an important step at any stage of life. A will ensures that your intentions are carried out and it can help establish a plan to receive the best tax benefits for your assets. Most importantly, if you have loved ones who depend on you, your estate plan can protect their future.

#### **Myth 3: Estate planning is only about distributing assets.**

Explained: Yes, your assets are accounted for, but your estate is also a reflection of your values. You can use it to give to charitable organizations, and you can pass down life experiences and memories by recording your wishes. In addition, an estate plan should describe what you would like to happen in the event you are unable to make medical decisions or take care of your finances. It is the full picture of your wishes and your life's work.

Use your estate to impact others. If you would like to speak about opportunities to support Chicago Engineers Foundation through an estate plan, please contact Debbie Birrell, Executive Director, at [execdir@chicagoengineersfoundation.org](mailto:execdir@chicagoengineersfoundation.org).

*The mission of the Chicago Engineers' Foundation is to encourage and empower young people to become the next generation of engineers through scholarship opportunities, outreach to educational institutions, and promoting interest in engineering as a career.*