



Introduction to Gift Planning

RS RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE
ALBANY & TROY



Philanthropy is a very old tradition at Russell Sage College. One remarkable woman, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, determined to use her considerable fortune to make a difference in the world. In 1916, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, along with Eliza Kellas, head of the Emma Willard School, founded Russell Sage College. They proposed to offer women the means of independence through a broad liberal education and preparation for specific professional careers.

Since the College's founding, hundreds of people followed her lead with large and small gifts that perpetuate her legacy and ensure that Russell Sage College will continue to make a difference for generations of students to come.



THE MANY WAYS OF GIVING

A gift to Russell Sage College does not have to compete with your personal financial goals. In fact, some of the best gift plans may improve your financial and tax situation.

Deciding what to give, when to give, and how to shape your gift, can be an important part of thoughtful and effective financial planning. Our staff is ready to work with you and/or your financial advisor to help design a special gift arrangement to meet your personal needs and goals.

The important thing to remember about the ways of giving - whether outright or planned - is that they all allow both you and your alma mater to benefit.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

The most well-known gifts are outright: cash, securities, donor advised funds, and IRA gift transfers. Cash and appreciated securities are tax deductible in the year the gift is received.

Donating **appreciated stock** saves money in two ways: income taxes are reduced through the charitable deduction, and avoidance of the capital gains tax applied if you sell the shares yourself.

Donors 70 1/2 or older can make a gift via a direct transfer (**Qualified Charitable Distribution**) from a traditional or Roth IRA. You do not have to pay taxes on the gift transfer and because it is not considered income, QCDs can reduce your annual income level for tax purposes.

PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts afford numerous benefits and tax advantages for you and your heirs. A bequest, for example, allows you to defer until sometime in the future. Other irrevocable gifts produce annual income for you and/or your beneficiary and you benefit by an immediate tax deduction. Making a planned gift of any amount qualifies you for membership in **The Sage Ring Legacy Society**.



BEQUESTS - GIFTS THROUGH A WILL OR LIVING TRUST

Charitable bequests, provisions in a will or living trust, are by far the most common of all the planned gifts used to create one's legacy. For example at Russell Sage College, donors have named funds for what matters most to them, e.g., student scholarship, faculty support, academic programs, and building preservation. Should your bequest be generic or unrestricted, you will be helping the College address the most important needs of the day.

Ways to create a bequest:

- Specific dollar amount
- Percent of or entire remainder of estate
- Conditional bequest
- Personal or tangible property

Please go to www.sage/gift-planning for more details on each of these bequests. Your attorney will assist you in determining which provision is best suited for your financial situation and personal goals. Lastly, for specific legal language to make a bequest provision, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 518-244-4776 or warshs@sage.

GIFTS THROUGH BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Another way to create your legacy is through a beneficiary designation. It only takes three simple steps to do so. You can name Russell Sage College as a beneficiary of IRAs and retirement plans, life insurance policies, donor advised funds, commercial annuities, or other bank accounts:

1. Contact your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution for a change-of-beneficiary form.
2. Decide what percentage (1 to 100) you would like us to receive and name us, along with the percentage you chose, on the beneficiary form.
3. Return the completed form to your plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution.

If you make the Colleges beneficiary and owner of a life insurance policy, you can claim an income tax deduction for the cash surrender value of the policy. You can also purchase, through relatively modest annual gifts, a new policy naming Russell Sage College as beneficiary and owner. Not only will you be able to leverage a small annual gift into a large one, you can claim the value of your annual premium as an income tax charitable deduction.



GIFTS THAT PROVIDE INCOME/PASS ASSETS TO HEIR

Charitable gift annuities and **charitable remainder trusts** offer an income stream during your lifetime. These life income gifts are usually established with an irrevocable gift of cash, marketable securities, or even real estate.

A **gift annuity** is an agreement between you and Sage whereby we agree to pay you fixed payments for your life (and/or the life of your chosen beneficiary), after which the principal of the gift is passed to Russell Sage College. **Charitable remainder trusts** operate similarly but are set up by a legal professional for larger assets (Sage does not manage trust funds). Both these gifts provide vital support to Sage while knowing that you and your loved ones will be cared for.

Another type of trust, the **Charitable Lead Trust** provides payments to Sage for a set number of years and then the assets are distributed to heirs. Lead trusts are especially useful to donors whose heirs would face high estate or gift taxes.



Every planned gift to Russell Sage College is an investment in the future and a way to put a unique mark on our graduates and the world in which they live and work.

We welcome any questions you may have and can help develop a plan to create your legacy and attain financial security for yourself and those you love. Please return the enclosed card or contact the Office of Gift Planning at 518-244-4776.

For more details on any of the gift options described, please go to www.sage.edu/gift-planning.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

Most real estate has appreciated at a rate higher than the rate of inflation and offers good potential in charitable gift planning. You can explore with us the gift of a home, vacation property, condominium, undeveloped land, or other real estate. You can make the property an outright gift, convert it to a new income for yourself by using it to establish a charitable trust, or transfer it to the College while retaining your right to stay in the home for the rest of your life.

If you include Russell Sage in your plans, please use our legal name and Federal Tax ID:

Legal Name: Russell Sage College
Address: 65 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180
Federal Tax ID Number: 14-1338488





Ancient societies honored their heroes by crowning them with wreaths of laurel – a symbol of distinction and honor. The Sage Ring society adopts that symbol and spirit in honoring our heroes, those alumni and friends of the college whose forethought and generosity include Russell Sage College in their giving plans, ensuring the sustainability of the college and the promise of education to future generations.

For more information, contact:

Susan Warshany

Office of Institutional Advancement

Director of Gift Planning

(518) 244-4776, warshs@sage.edu

Russell Sage is a community of scholars committed to empowering students:

To Be - To provide the individual student with the opportunity and means to develop and advance personally and professionally, and thus to be successful in achieving life goals;

To Know - To contribute to the larger society a group of diverse, thoughtful and competent citizen-leaders who continue to be engaged in the pursuit of lifelong learning; and

To Do - To translate learning into action and application, recognizing the obligation of educated persons to lead and to serve their communities.