

## Legacy and Bequest Gifts: Honoring Donor Intent

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The American Red Cross is committed to honoring the intent of our donors who make Legacy and Bequest gifts. This means that if a donor restricts a gift to a particular program or unit within the Red Cross, we follow that restriction. The Red Cross has a rigorous process for ensuring that Legacy and Bequest Gifts are processed and expended in accordance with the donor's intent, overseen by the Red Cross legal office.

When a Legacy and Bequest Gift is received, the Red Cross uses the language of the gift instrument to determine whether the funds should be allocated to a chapter, region, or National Headquarters and whether the gift is restricted in terms of geography or purpose. When the gift language is not specific (for example, it says "American Red Cross" without identifying a region or chapter or specifying National Headquarters), the Red Cross splits the gift allocation between National Headquarters (NHQ) and the chapter where the donor resided.

### **For More Information:**

Please call the Gift Planning Unit at the American Red Cross at 1-800-797-8022, extension 5 if you have any questions.