

Give the Gift of Independence and Opportunity Through Planned Giving

A Planned Gift to the American Council of the Blind creates a lasting legacy. Whether you are blind or visually impaired yourself, a relative or friend of someone who is, or a person who wants to make a difference, your support of ACB will:

- Enrich your life and the lives of many others;
- Increase awareness of the capabilities of people who are blind or visually impaired;
- Help remove barriers preventing an equitable level of inclusion in society.

Your gift is deeply appreciated and used exclusively for meeting the mission and goals of the American Council of the Blind.

If you have any questions about the Planned Giving opportunities described in this brochure, please call us for more information, or contact your financial advisor or tax specialist.

A Guide to Planned Giving

There are many ways to make a charitable contribution. You can create a gift honoring your philanthropic intentions and achieve your financial and tax planning goals at the same time. Your gift to the American Council of the Blind is

your legacy of helping make the world a better place for people experiencing vision loss.

Gifts of Cash

Cash contributions are a quick and easy way to show your support of ACB's services. Simply write a check or make a cash donation through our website. If your employer has a matching gifts program, you could double or even triple your donation to ACB.

Bequests

A bequest to ACB in your Will makes a lasting contribution to help people who are blind achieve independence. Designate a specific amount, a percentage of your total estate, or a share of the remainder after gifts to your heirs.

Gifts through Living Trusts

A Living Trust provides for yourself and your family before and after your death. As in a Will, you can name ACB as a beneficiary.

Gifts of Real Estate

Your charitable contribution of real estate – a personal residence, vacation home, commercial real estate or vacant land – has income and capital gains tax advantages. By choosing an option called "Retained Life Estate", you can give your

personal residence to ACB and still maintain lifetime use of the property.

Gifts of Life Insurance

When you purchased life insurance, you had a need for its benefits. If you no longer have that need, consider contributing your existing life insurance policy to ACB. Simply name ACB as its owner and beneficiary, either in whole or in part. If you are a donor committed to making annual gifts, you can direct a portion of your annual gift to an insurance policy, guaranteeing the continuation of that gift in perpetuity.

Gifts of Retirement Plans

Consider naming ACB as beneficiary of your pension, 401K, IRA or other retirement plan. This gift could be the most cost-effective one you can make, avoiding possible double taxation on retirement plan assets left to your heirs.

Gifts of Securities

Contributions of stock or other securities are a welcome gift to ACB. If you contribute appreciated securities that you have held for one year or more, there are potential capital gains benefits. For transfer options, please call us.

Other giving options include the following:

- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

Who We Are

Established in 1961, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) is a national organization of blind, visually impaired and sighted individuals whose mission is to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and improved quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people. Services include:

- Toll-free information and referral hotline on all aspects of blindness;
- Consulting with industry on employment of people who are blind and visually impaired;
- Public education and awareness training about blindness and visual impairment;
- Scholarship assistance to blind/visually impaired post-secondary students;
- Direction and guidance on legal matters relating to blindness;
- Advocating for equitable inclusion of children with blindness and visual impairment in the public school system;
- Governmental monitoring, consultation and advocacy;
- Holding an annual national conference and convention for conducting business and providing a venue for learning, sharing and having fun; and
- Providing leadership and legislative training for its members.

Did You Know?

- The National Center on Health Statistics reports that over 25 million adults in the United States report having some level of vision loss. In addition, it is estimated that there are more than 59,000 children who are considered legally blind.
- A 70% increase in the number of people with blindness and low vision is projected by the year 2020, due to the aging population of the United States.
- Unemployment estimates for people in the United States who are blind range from 52% to 79%.
- The cost for adaptive equipment (low vision aids, braille computer displays, screen-reading software) needed by blind college students to effectively compete with their sighted peers can be as high as \$5,000.
- Basic adaptive equipment necessary for people with vision loss to live independently (e.g. white canes, magnifiers and other devices) can cost hundreds of dollars, but is not covered under any medical insurance policy.

NOTE: The information contained herein is for explanatory purposes only and is not intended to be used as tax advice. ACB recommends that you contact your financial or tax advisor, who can provide you with additional information on how your participation in the above programs may affect your personal tax situation.



American Council of the Blind

**Shaping the Future
of People Who Are Blind
through
Planned Giving**

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