



WRITING YOUR PERSONAL LEGACY STATEMENT FOR

The Endowment Book of Life

I did not find the world desolate when I entered it, and as my fathers planted
for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me

The Talmud



Dear Legacy Society Member:

The Endowment Book of Life is our way of thanking you, as a member of the Harry Greenstein Legacy Society, for making arrangements for a permanent gift to The Associated's endowment. By providing a charitable legacy, you are not only expressing your own personal commitment to *tzedakah*, but also, you are ensuring that the Jewish community will be here for your children, grandchildren and beyond.

Your legacy statement provides the opportunity for some insight about your family, the charitable influences in your life, the values you hold dear and your hopes and dreams for the future. The book is permanently displayed at The Associated. It is here that your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be able to read about you and their family's heritage, as well as find the inspiration to carry on the values you have instilled.

The following guide will help you in reflecting on your own unique, personal experiences and relationships that have influenced your decision to leave a charitable legacy to The Associated. There is no required formula for your legacy statement, so have fun and feel free to be creative.



Personal Statement Guide

The following is a list of questions and answers that will guide you in writing your personal statement:

Who writes the personal statements for the *Endowment Book of Life*?

Only members of the **Harry Greenstein Legacy Society** are given this opportunity. Each Legacy Society member may write his/her own statement, or couples may choose to write one family statement together.

How long should my statement be?

Your statement can be up to 250 words long. When you begin to write, concentrate primarily on the meaning and message you want to convey, rather than on the number of words. Write as much as you can think of; then take what you have written and make choices, editing the longer story down if necessary, to stay within the 250-word maximum.

What should I write about?

Your statement could include information about your history or that of your family, the charitable influences in your life and the values you want to pass on to future generations.

Are there any specific questions that I must address?

No; however, you may use the following list of questions to assist you in writing. Keep in mind that you do not need to answer all of these questions; they are simply suggestions, to inspire you as you write a meaningful message for future generations to learn about you, your family and what was truly important to you.

Consider the following:

- How would you like to be remembered?
- What is your motivation for leaving a legacy gift to our community?
- What are your wishes for the future of your family?
- What are your hopes for the Jewish community of the future?
- What are some significant events in your life that have shaped your values?
- Are there any special achievements that have been made by you and/or your family that you would like remembered?
- When did your family arrive in the U.S. and where?
- When and why did you come to Baltimore?
- What are the names of your parents and grandparents?
- Is there anything else that you would like to mention?

Are there examples of personal statements written by other people that I may see?

Yes. The most recent edition of the *Endowment Book of Life* with statements from other legacy donors is available online at associated.org/bookoflife.

What if I don't know what to write or require assistance?

Our team in Philanthropic Planning and Services will help. Contact Donna Kasoff at 410-369-9256 or dkasoff@associated.org to arrange for a staff writer to work with you.

How will my statement be displayed in the *Endowment Book of Life*?

Your personal statement will be printed and you will have an opportunity to sign it during a meaningful ceremony, where you can invite family and friends to celebrate your commitment with you.

Your statement will be on permanent display in the *Endowment Book of Life* at The Associated, and you will have a copy to take home with you.

Philanthropic Planning and Services

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The Associated
PHILANTHROPIC PLANNING
AND SERVICES

*Inspiring
Jewish
Legacy*