



What legacy will you leave?

This past month I have been involved in three excellent opportunities for individuals and families to consider the lasting legacy they want to have on the youth of tomorrow. One was a donor considering estate plans seeking to improve the community's future technical workforce. The second, a family carrying on the legacy of their



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father by adding to a scholarship fund, now in memory of their mother, too. The third, a young couple awarding scholarships specifically for young immigrants to assist them in earning a college degree. All three examples have embraced the reality that there is something longer-lasting than the here and now. All three have decided that investing in education, including the education of Columbus-area residents, is important and is how they want to be remembered long after they are gone.

So what type of legacy will you leave? People make impacts

on each other's lives through business interactions, through family interactions, through educational interactions. But after that person is gone, there are still many ways to continue to make a lasting difference and "interact" with others for generations to come. An individual or family can decide to give a part of their estate after they die, or can start right now. Others choose to do both so they can see the immediate benefit of their gift and know it is being well managed and will be expanded in the future after they are gone.

The Columbus area is blessed with many charitable organizations and foundations seeking to solve problems now and well into our future. I have been blessed while in Platte County to get to know many of the directors of area foundations and meet regularly with members of their boards. I have also been able to work with regional board members representing larger areas like the 25 counties of the Central Community College Foundation, or the Nebraska Community Foundation, which represents donor interests

across the entire state. Rotary International is an example of a group that supports local, regional and international projects. All of these great foundations, and many others, thrive on helping people make a better life for themselves and their communities.

Individuals can give of their talents, their time and their financial resources. Usually only one of those lasts past our time on Earth, though, so please take time from your busy summer schedules to think about your legacy. Talk to a family member, a friend, an accountant, an attorney or a foundation director, and put in place a plan to start your legacy now or in the future to support the people, community or issues important to you.

If you cannot think of anything, call or email me. I will be glad to share exciting ways people have left a legacy or put you in touch with individuals and families who have experienced the joy of giving.

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