

# Leaving a Legacy of Love

How to leave a gift to Thầy and his community in your will.

**Thầy teaches us that we can never die; we are a continuous manifestation.**

Thank you for wanting to leave a legacy of love to the community of our beloved teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh. In this way, you know you will be continued beautifully into the future. Your legacy gift allows the Sangha to care for Thầy's fourfold sangha of monks, nuns, and lay practitioners, sustain the practice centers, support worldwide humanitarian efforts, and spread Thầy's teachings where they are needed. Your gift will transform suffering into compassion—bringing peace and joy to millions around the world far into the future.



*Legacy gifts are going to be essential to helping the monastic and lay communities continue to grow and thrive. Many of us want to ensure that the teachings and the monastic order continue in the future, but we may not have the wealth to make a major gift at the present moment. That makes legacy giving an attractive option: if you've got a retirement plan, you have assets that you can give after your lifetime.*

--Brandy Sacks, Cedar Society Member

Below, please find information we hope can help you with your planning.

## **Legacy or bequest giving is done by leaving a gift in your will or estate plan.**

A legacy or bequest gift is a gift that is given after the donor's lifetime. Giving through your will allows you to make a generous gift that you might not be able to give during your lifetime. Such a gift can have a huge impact on continuing to share mindfulness and Thầy's teachings far into the future.

## **Everyone can make a bequest or legacy gift.**

Legacy gifts are gifts that anyone, of any means, can offer. You do not need to be wealthy, it does not cost a thing, and you can change your mind at any time just by changing your will.

## **Bequest gifts are important sources of long-term support for our beloved community.**

Bequests are often the easiest way to make a significant contribution toward the continuation of Thầy's teachings of mindfulness and peace around the world. The suggested language in the box to the right can help you and your advisors include our community in your will.

## **If you already have a will, giving a legacy gift is easy.**

You can prepare a short document known as a "codicil" to your will, to be signed and dated in the presence of two witnesses who will not benefit from the change, and attach it to your will. See the box on the next page for an example. Bequest gifts are easy to set up and require no up-front funds. You can also change them at any time.

## **Leaving a retirement plan or part of an IRA is also possible.**

This type of gift is also easy to make and can maximize benefits to you and to the community. To make this gift, simply notify your plan's administrator of your wish to change the beneficiary. A change of beneficiary form will be required. The Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation can be a full or partial beneficiary of your plan.

## **Sample Bequest Language**

I hereby give to the Trustees of the Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism, a Vermont charitable corporation, Tax Identification number **03-0356845** (hereinafter referred to as PVCEB), the following: the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_%) of my estate **OR** \_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_%) of the residue of my estate. The PVCEB shall use this gift for support of the Plum Village community.

**A gift through your life insurance policy is also possible.**

You can name the Foundation as the primary, partial, or alternate beneficiary of your life insurance policy by filling out a change of beneficiary form with your insurance company. Furthermore, if you no longer need the policy proceeds in your estate, you can transfer ownership of the policy to the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation.

**Be sure to consult an estate planning professional or tax attorney.**

It is important to receive independent advice from professionals whom you know and trust. These can be attorneys who practice estate planning, accountants, financial planners, trust officers, insurance agents, stockbrokers, etc.

**Your will is your legacy of love.** Please take a moment to breathe and experience the joy of compassionate giving through a legacy gift that ensures the continuation of Thầy's work and beloved community.

We bow in gratitude for your loving heart. Please let us know of your bequest intentions so that we can offer you our deep gratitude and a special gift.



For additional information and assistance, please contact:  
Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation  
2499 Melru Lane  
Escondido, CA 92026, USA  
[info@thichnhathanhfoundation.org](mailto:info@thichnhathanhfoundation.org)  
760-291-1003 ext 104

*Information provided here is meant as general information only. The Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation strongly advises you to seek legal and financial counsel when planning a legacy gift.*

**Sample Codicil**

(date)

I, (name), a resident of the County of [county], State of [state], declare that this is the codicil to my last will and testament, which is dated [date original will signed].

I add or change said last will in the following manner:

*[List all changes or additions to the original will. Reference each section number of the will and the specific language you will be affecting. Here is where you could include a bequest to the Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism/Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation.*

*See Sample Bequest Language on previous page to assist you.]*

Otherwise, I hereby confirm and republish my will, dated [date original will signed], in all respects other than those herein mentioned.

I subscribe my name to this codicil this [day, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>] day of [month], [year] at [full address where signed], in the presence of [full name of the first witness to codicil], and [full name of second witness to codicil], attesting witnesses, who subscribe their names here in my presence.

(you sign here)

\_\_\_\_\_, Maker

**ATTEST**

On the date last above written, [name], known to us to be the person whose signature appears at the end of the codicil, declared to us, [full name of the first witness to codicil], and [full name of second witness to codicil], the undersigned, that the foregoing instrument, consisting of [number of pages of the codicil] page(s), was the codicil to the will, dated [date original will signed]; who then signed the codicil in our presence, and now in the presence of each other, we now sign our names as witnesses.

*[Names, signatures, addresses, and date signed of two witnesses.]*