

BUILDING THE FUTURE



SPRING 2026

Generous Supporters and Donors Since 2021

By Kay and Mark Noguchi

“We believe that education is essential—it sparks curiosity about the world and fuels a desire to move things forward, as opposed to tearing things down. It’s crucial in developing critical-thinking skills: the power to question what you’ve been told and make your own choices.

Charitable giving is a choice—and we choose to support 10,000 Degrees to give as many students as possible the opportunity for a leg-up, while pushing back against income inequality, especially in Marin County. Those who receive support often pay it forward, helping others as they were helped. That’s how we begin to change our society: by showing that giving back—even just a little bit—can create lasting change.

10,000 Degrees helps a wide range of students find what works best for them. Unlike many scholarships

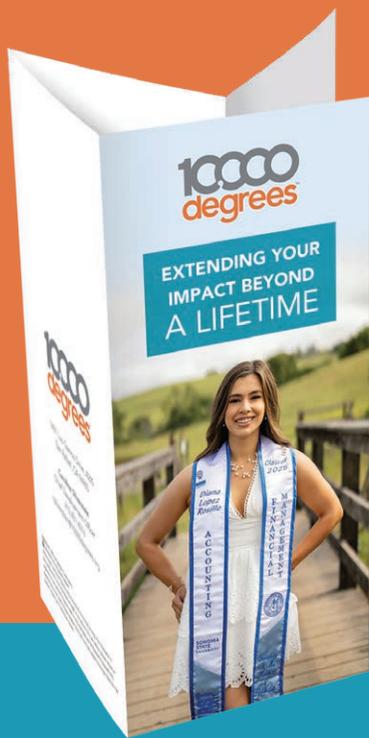


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that focus solely on top academic performers, they provide guidance through a variety of options—including community college—so students can pursue a future that’s grounded in both opportunity and informed choice. Getting an education isn’t easy for many students, especially those from low-income backgrounds. We have deep admiration for these young people who don’t just take the easy route—they persevere!”

Open Doorways for Future Students

You can make a transformational impact in the life of students from low-income backgrounds by supporting 10,000 Degrees through your will and estate plan. Read on in this edition of *Building the Future* to learn how you can make a difference while meeting your charitable goals. You can also contact Caroline Silverstein at 415.451.4016 or csilverstein@10000degrees.org to learn more today.



GIVE A MEANINGFUL GIFT

Learn more about remembering 10,000 Degrees in your will or trust by requesting our free guide, *Extending Your Impact Beyond a Lifetime*. You'll uncover four ways to make this type of gift and find out if this donation option is right for you. Simply return the enclosed reply card today.

You Are a Philanthropist (Yes, You!)

Who comes to mind when you think of the word “philanthropist”? Maybe a celebrity? A billionaire? Look in a mirror and you’ll see another philanthropist.

The truth is: Philanthropy isn’t defined by fame or fortune. It is defined by heart—your desire to make an impact that empowers future generations of students. The word “philanthropy” actually comes from ancient Greek, meaning “love of humanity.”

So, thank you for being a philanthropist. You care deeply about others and want to support important causes, like the mission of 10,000 Degrees.

You have the power to protect the people and values you hold dear for generations to come. Including a gift to 10,000 Degrees in your will is a powerful way to share your values and give students from low-income backgrounds a chance to pursue their dreams and change the world.

How Your Philanthropy Can Be Flexible

Giving a gift in your will or estate plan doesn’t have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. By donating a percentage instead, you ensure the value of your gift will adjust in proportion to the size of your estate.

Whatever you choose to give, you can feel confident knowing your kindness will make a difference for the students we support through their entire educational journey.

While making a gift in your will is one of the most popular strategies, you have options. We would be happy to help you find a gift that meets your personal and philanthropic goals.

You Don’t Have to Wait!

Amplify your philanthropy now through the power of your estate plan. All you need is the dedication you already possess. Contact Caroline Silverstein at csilverstein@10000degrees.org or 415.451.4016 today to discuss the impact you want to make.



The 3 Biggest Gifts You'll Ever Give What Your Legacy Can Do for Loved Ones

When you create your will and estate plan, you give those you love much more than just financial protection. You give them:

1. THE GIFT OF GOOD PLANNING

A thoughtful estate plan removes uncertainty for your loved ones. By clearly outlining your wishes, you make a difficult time easier—offering clarity, reassurance, and peace of mind.

Your will and estate plan transform from a set of legal documents into a trusted guide that helps those who will need it most.

2. THE GIFT OF YOUR STORY

How many people truly know what has shaped your life and inspired your values? You may be close to several people, but there are still important things each person could learn about you.

By sharing why you chose to support 10,000 Degrees through your will and estate plan, you help your loved ones understand your commitment to empowering the next generation of students.

3. THE GIFT OF GIVING BACK

If you choose to support 10,000 Degrees through a gift in your will, you are putting your values into motion beyond your lifetime. A gift in your will does not affect current finances—making it a popular giving choice for our 10,000 Degrees community.

BONUS: Another gift that costs nothing to create is to designate 10,000 Degrees as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets or life insurance policy. These assets pass outside of your will and can be changed with one simple form.

By gifting your connection to 10,000 Degrees to your loved ones and your community, you provide a way for them to feel close to you—and for us to continue to benefit from your compassion for years to come.

After My Will Is Done, What's Next?

Have you created a will? Excellent. Your thoughtful planning will provide security for your loved ones and favorite causes like 10,000 Degrees. It'll also give you peace of mind.

Next, ensure that the existence of your important documents is not a mystery when they are most needed. You should:

1. Make a copy of all the documents in your will and estate plan (including financial and medical powers of attorney). Store the originals in a secure, fireproof safe at home, then tell your executor or personal representative where everything is and how to access it so they are prepared. (Tip: Signing and dating your copies in blue ink rather than black will help indicate your signature is original.)

2. Get in touch with your beneficiaries. Let the people and organizations you have named know you have included them in your will, and/or as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy, which pass outside of the will. This will help confirm that your directions will be followed. (Tip: Many financial entities are not obligated to track down nonprofit beneficiaries after your lifetime, which makes it extra important to let us know if you're leaving a gift to support 10,000 Degrees.)



3. Review your plans every two to three years. We all go through important life changes that shift our priorities. Regularly updating your documents ensures they reflect your wishes now, not from years ago. (Tip: You don't have to redo your will entirely when events like a birth, marriage or a passing of a loved one occurs. You can simply make a revision called a codicil.)



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We are so grateful for
your consideration to
include 10,000 Degrees
in your planned giving.

Are You Ready?

A bequest in your estate plan is right for you if:

- You want the opportunity to influence not only the future ownership of your possessions, but the meaning that others assign to your life.
- You have a will or living trust, or are ready to create one.
- You want to continue your support of 10,000 Degrees after your lifetime.
- You want to balance your generosity to 10,000 Degrees with an assurance that loved ones are taken care of first.
- You want to maintain the flexibility to change your mind at any time.



Your Next Steps



Consult an Attorney

Using the services of an estate planning attorney is always a best practice, rather than a do-it-yourself will template you may find online. You need someone who understands state and federal laws and someone who can help translate your wishes appropriately.



Contact Us

We're happy to send you a copy of our official bequest language or answer your questions about bequests and other planned giving options.



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EXTENDING YOUR
IMPACT BEYOND
A LIFETIME





Provide for the People and Causes You Cherish Most

For you, an up-to-date estate plan is one of your most effective tools for protecting the security of your loved ones. But did you know that you can also use your plan to play a role in carrying out 10,000 Degrees' mission to empower students from low-income backgrounds to pursue their college and career dreams?

When you create a will or living trust, you have the ability to decide how your assets will be distributed at your death. You can include provisions, or bequests, that indicate to whom you'd like to give specific assets or amounts.

Besides naming family members and other loved ones, you can also include bequests to charitable organizations such as 10,000 Degrees. When you include a gift to 10,000 Degrees in your estate plan, you join a group of instrumental supporters whose donations have made it possible to support generations of students who are striving for a higher education.

Advantages of a Bequest

- *It's easy to do.* Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will or living trust.
- *You can change your mind.* Your estate plan can be changed at any time. With a bequest, you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime. Until then, you are free to alter your plans, eliminating the worry that you might make a commitment you could later regret.

- *It costs nothing now.* Making a bequest costs you nothing today. Yet, it gives you the personal satisfaction of knowing that you have created a lasting legacy at 10,000 Degrees.

How It Works

Your estate planning attorney can help you structure a gift so your wishes for your loved ones and favorite causes will be accurately fulfilled. You can include charitable bequests when you create your will or living trust, or you can add a bequest later through a codicil to your will or an amendment to your trust.

Just a few simple sentences, called bequest language, in your will or living trust are all that is needed. You can give 10,000 Degrees a specific item or amount, or you can give us a percentage of what is left of your estate after others have received their share. A percentage allows your gift to remain proportionate to your estate size.

Although not required, notifying us that 10,000 Degrees is being named in your will or trust documents helps ensure that your bequest will be executed in the manner you intended.

4 Ways to Make a Bequest to Us

You should discuss these various strategies with your estate planning attorney as you prepare to create or update your estate plan.

1 Specific bequest. This is an outright bequest that is a gift of a certain item to a particular beneficiary. If the item has been disposed of before death, the bequest is not effective and no claim can be made to any other property.

2 General bequest. This is an outright bequest and is usually a gift of a stated sum of money. It remains effective even if there is not sufficient cash to make the bequest; other estate assets must be sold to meet the bequest.

3 Residuary bequest. This is an outright bequest of the "rest, residue and remainder" of your estate after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid. Divide your estate according to percentages of the residue to ensure that beneficiaries receive the proportions you desire.

4 Contingent bequest. This is a bequest made on the condition that a certain event must occur before distribution to the beneficiary. This bequest is specific in nature and is not effective if the condition is not met.

Yes, I Want to Be Part of a Student's Journey

- Show me how to make my final wishes come true. Please send me the FREE guide, ***Extending Your Impact Beyond a Lifetime.***
- I'd like to learn more about how my kindness can change a student's life.
- I have already made a gift to support learning and academic success but haven't yet notified you. Please share details with me about joining The Legacy Society.

Thank you for your steadfast support of student success! On the back of this card, please share your connection to 10,000 Degrees and why it is important to you to support our mission.

Name—Please print.

Telephone

Email

Address

City, State ZIP

We respect your privacy. Information collected here will not be shared outside of our organization without your permission.

