

 AMERICAN
LEGION

AUXILIARY

Planned Giving Guide



**A Community of Volunteers
Serving Veterans, Military,
and their Families**

The image features a group of men in World War II-era military uniforms, including olive drab shirts, trousers, and M1 helmets, positioned behind a stone and brick wall. They are holding a large American flag on a wooden pole. The background shows a stone building with a gabled roof and a street lamp. The text 'AMERICAN LEGION' is in blue with a stylized American flag icon above it, and 'AUXILIARY' is in red below a horizontal line.

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY

**The American Legion Auxiliary has been here
for over a century. Plan to give now so we'll be here
for future generations.**

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This guide introduces you to planned giving. No gift is too small. All gifts leave a lasting impact. This guide is not to be considered legal advice. It is intended to encourage you to think of your future, the Auxiliary's future, and to consult with the proper legal, financial, and tax professionals to help you accomplish your future giving goals.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is the process of thoughtfully including a charitable gift in your will. It's a financial gift established by the donor as part of their estate or financial planning that will come to fruition after death. By contrast, things such as dues payments and regular donations come out of one's own discretionary income. Those are budgeted gifts, not planned gifts.



Because the administrative costs of American Legion Auxiliary programs are paid from dues and other sources, all money contributed to the ALA is used to benefit the intended Auxiliary program, service, or if directed, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. An estate is anything you'll have left after your death. You don't need a large estate to give and make a lasting impact. As one donor told us, "A lot of people feel like, 'Well, I don't have enough,' but sometimes we have resources when we die that we don't have in life."

Some of the more common means of planned giving:

- ★ gifts through will or trust
- ★ gifts through retirement plans
- ★ gifts through life insurance policies

PASSION

The Importance of a Will

You don't need to be wealthy to have a will. Dying without having established a valid will means your assets could be distributed to your heirs by the state, not necessarily how you would have wished.

It is never too early or too late to compose a will or estate plan. The future is impossible to predict, and unforeseen circumstances can arise. Be prepared. Plan now.

You can create a will for free using freewill.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Caring.com, approximately 68 percent of adults do not have a will or estate plan. Making a will is easy and helps ensure your assets are distributed according to your wishes.

+ PURPOSE

How Can I Leave a Legacy?

No matter the size of any individual donation, collectively, every gift adds up to helping ensure the Auxiliary and the ALA Foundation are here for generations to come. You can establish your legacy in the Auxiliary when you include the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation in your estate plans and other financial preparations.

The American Legion Auxiliary has a history of giving back to our veterans, military, and their families. Our members have established this tradition through more than 100 years of mission-related programs that serve veterans and military, develop our youth, and promote patriotism in communities across America.



Poppy makers (from left) at the Indianapolis VA hospital in 1975: Vincent Macri of South Bend, Ind.; Carl Crittendon, 77, of Pacific Beach Post 255; Mrs. Ruth E. Coburn of Indianapolis Unit 479 and the hospital poppy chair; and Clyde Fox, of Post 13, Dayton, Ohio.

PAST + PRESENT

Why Planned Giving is Important

People of all backgrounds, education, and income levels rely on a variety of planned giving methods to provide for their loved ones, as well as support beloved charities like the American Legion Auxiliary and ALA Foundation. In fact, many methods of planned giving ensure that assets that would otherwise be subject to heavy taxation are instead given to dear causes; this means the assets you leave loved ones are taxed less. Through planned giving, donors are able to meet their current and future financial needs while providing the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation with financial support later. You leave a lasting impact on our legacy of *Service Not Self* for generations to come.

Individual gifts are critical to support the American Legion Auxiliary and ALA Foundation's wide range of programs and services vital to helping veterans, military, and their families. That need is increasing. A new generation of young, wounded veterans will need our help for decades to come.



DID YOU KNOW?

It's important to keep your plans up to date. Life changes like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, or even new laws can make your old estate plan obsolete.

+ FUTURE

Gifts through Will or Trust



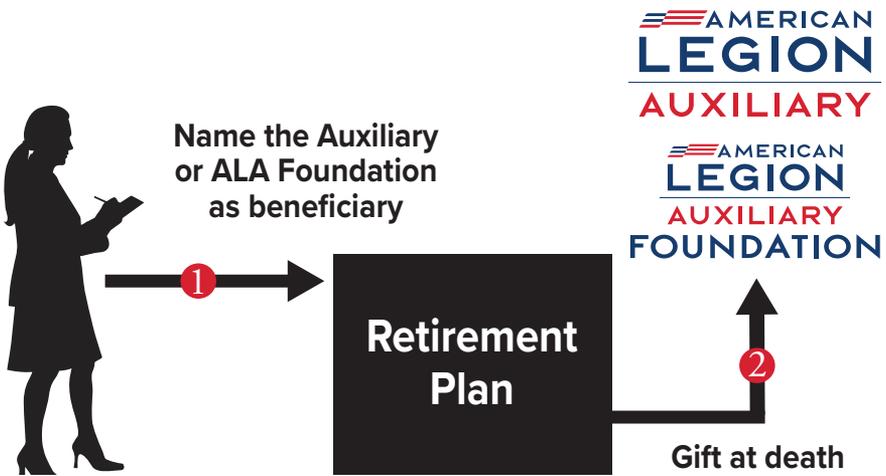
How it Works:

- 1) You include a bequest in your will or revocable trust.
- 2) Upon your death, your will or trust directs the bequest to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation for the purpose(s) you specified.

Benefits:

- 1) You can change your bequest at any time.
- 2) Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- 3) If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.
- 4) You can direct your bequest to a particular program (please be sure to check with National Headquarters to ensure your gift can be used as intended).
- 5) You have the satisfaction of knowing your bequest will ensure the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation lives up to the needs of our veterans and military families forever.

Gifts through Retirement Plans



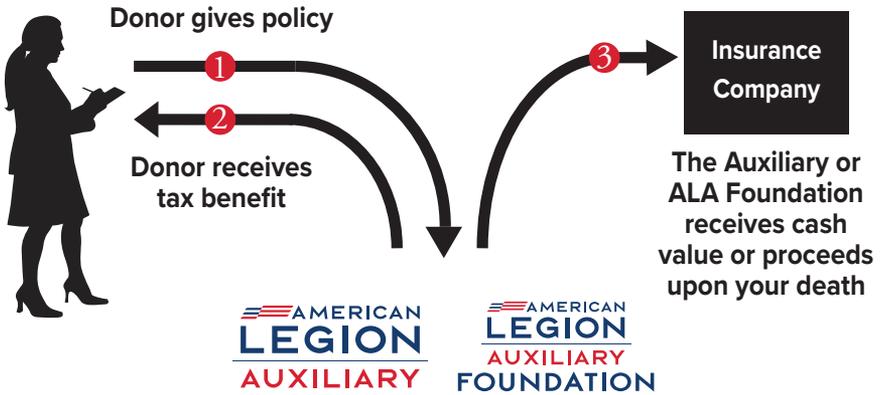
How it Works:

- 1) You name the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation as a beneficiary for a specific amount or percentage of your retirement plan benefits.
- 2) Upon your death, your plan administrator transfers those designated funds to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation.

Benefits:

- 1) Your funds bequeathed to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation will not be subject to federal income taxes, according to current tax law.
- 2) Please contact a professional tax advisor to check if your funds will have federal estate tax liability.
- 3) You have the satisfaction of knowing your gift will provide future support to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation's mission.

Gifts through Life Insurance Policies



How it Works:

- 1) You assign specific rights in an insurance policy to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation and receive an income tax deduction.
- 2) The American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation may either surrender the policy for its current cash value or hold it and receive the proceeds upon your death.

Benefits:

- 1) You receive a federal income tax deduction.
- 2) You can contribute a fully paid-up policy OR,
- 3) If premiums remain to be paid, you can receive income tax deductions for contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation to pay these premiums.
- 4) You can name the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation as owner and beneficiary of a new policy and make continuous gifts to offset premiums the organization will pay to maintain the policy. There is no charitable deduction for this option.
- 5) You have the satisfaction of knowing your gift will provide critical support to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation in the future.

Other Options for Planned Giving

★ Charitable/Deferred Gift Annuity

You can give money or assets to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation and in turn receive fixed payments for life from the Auxiliary.

★ Gifts of Real Estate

You can give the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation the remaining portion of your estate that remains after all administrative expenses, taxes, and specific bequests have been paid.

★ Stock and Appreciated Assets

Similar to bequeathing a life insurance policy or retirement plan, you can bequeath these assets to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation.

★ Retained Life Estate

You deed a residence or farm to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation now. You pay the property's taxes, maintenance fees, and insurance and retain the right to occupy, rent, or make improvements to the home. Upon your death (and/or person you choose to retain the rights), the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation receive the property.

★ Charitable Lead Trust

A trust designed to reduce beneficiaries' taxable income by first donating a portion of the trust's income to charities and then, after a specified period of time, transferring the remainder of the trust to the beneficiaries.

★ Charitable Bargain Sale

The sale of a good or service to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation for less than the fair market value of the good or service received.

★ Unitrust

Similar to an annuity trust. The payment to beneficiaries is determined by multiplying a fixed percentage by the fair market value of the trust assets as revalued each year.



Patients at a New York Veterans Affairs hospital select gifts for their families at one of the many ALA Christmas Gift Shops in 1961. The gift shop program is still an important Auxiliary mission outreach activity for U.S. veterans around the world.

“I am grateful to the organization that gave me the opportunity to serve as one of its national leaders. I believe the choice of giving a planned gift at the end of my lifetime represents my caring connection with the American Legion Auxiliary. A connection that I believe continues to support the growth of programs and services to our veterans, their families, and the communities we live in for generations.”

★ Rita Navarreté, Department of New Mexico

Sample Bequest Language

- 1) **Percentage of Total Estate for Unrestricted Purposes:** I hereby give and bequeath _____ percent (%) of my total estate to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters located at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, to be used to support the American Legion Auxiliary mission.

- 2) **Percentage of Residual for Unrestricted Purposes:** I hereby give and bequeath _____ percent (%) of the rest and residue of my estate to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation located at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, to be used to support the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation's mission.

- 3) **Specific Amount for Unrestricted Purposes:** I hereby give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters located at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, to be used to support the American Legion Auxiliary mission.

- 4) **Specific Amount for Specific Purposes:** I hereby give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ to be used for _____ at the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation located at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

- 5) **Contingent Bequest:** In the event that my spouse predeceases me, the Trustee shall distribute \$_____ to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters located at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, to be used to support the American Legion Auxiliary mission.



2023 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation participants. Established in 1947, ALA Girls Nation is the premier weeklong immersive learning program for high school students in the country.

“I have lived and breathed the ALA since I was 21 years old and I have to demonstrate that commitment. The ALA gave me so many opportunities that I have an obligation to pay that back. Planned giving is about being in control of your legacy; it’s about being able to have the last word. A lot of people feel like, ‘Well, I don’t have enough,’ but sometimes we have resources when we die that we don’t have in life. I’m not a rich person; I’m an average person. I want to focus all my philanthropy on something that can make a difference. I want to make sure we all realize it always takes money. Start giving to the organization that’s giving so many opportunities and is saving the lives of thousands of veterans.”

★ **Linda Boone, Department of Oregon**

Important Points to Remember

- ★ You don't need a large estate to give and make a lasting impact. Regardless of how much or little you own or have in assets, your gift to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation is crucial.
- ★ You can give through wills, trusts, retirement plans, life insurance policies, charitable/deferred gift annuities, gifts of real estate, stock and appreciated assets, retained life estate, charitable lead trusts, charitable bargain sale, and unitrusts.
- ★ If you die without a valid will, your assets are distributed according to state tax rules, not your wishes.
- ★ You can change your will at any time at your discretion.
- ★ To include the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation in your will, you will likely need:
 - 1) Auxiliary's full legal name: American Legion Auxiliary
 - 2) ALA Foundation's full legal name: American Legion Auxiliary Foundation
 - 3) Auxiliary's mailing address: 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
 - 4) Auxiliary's tax-exemption identification number: 35-0144340
 - 5) ALA Foundation's tax-exemption identification number: 26-1484144
- ★ The following can be used for a bequest of a general nature:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the American Legion Auxiliary, federal tax identification number, 35-0144340, residing at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268, the sum of ____ (or describe the real estate or personal property or percentage of your estate to be used for its general purposes)."

Disclaimer: *Neither the author, publisher, nor organization are legal/tax advice providers. These examples are general and may not apply to all individuals. The purpose of this publication is to provide accurate and authoritative information of a general character. Prospective donors should consult their personal tax and financial advisors for specific details about making a gift to the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation. State laws govern wills, trusts, and charitable gifts made in contractual agreements. Professional advice should be sought when considering these, as well as all other gifts.*



1959 Miss Poppy, 7-year-old Candy Fisher, shown here with first lady Mamie Eisenhower and chaperone at the White House. Styles change, but the importance of the ALA to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs remains vital and everlasting. Donations to the Poppy Fund raise over \$2 million annually, and 100 percent is distributed to veterans in need.

“A planned gift tells the organization that you believe in it to the point that you want it to continue even after you’re gone and can’t make a direct contribution. This is something I’ve felt ever since I became active on the national level: We need to alert our members that planned giving isn’t a big deal; it needs to be done. It’s significant no matter how small or large it is. When you add that amount to a hundred other amounts, it amounts to something big. And that’s what we need to carry on the work of the Auxiliary.”

★ **Linda Newsome, Department of Maryland**

GIVE TODAY

Legacy Gifts

The American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund received a most generous gift from the late **Grace S. Schultz**. Grace was a Paid Up For Life Auxiliary member of Illinois Unit 232. She enjoyed 74 years of continuous membership until her passing on July 21, 2010. She continued her legacy of giving through a charitable gift in her will, bequeathing \$61,000 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. She directed similar contributions in her will, including American Legion Auxiliary Square Unit 232 and The American Legion Square Post 232 in Illinois.

Lillian Vitelli left a generous gift to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Vitelli was a dedicated 12-year member of North Carolina Unit 24 until her passing on January 24, 2012. She chose to continue her legacy through a charitable gift in her will, bequeathing \$5,000 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

The American Legion Auxiliary received a special bequest from **Inez S. Shaffer**. She was a Paid Up For Life Auxiliary member of Wisconsin Unit 12 and enjoyed 24 years of membership in the Auxiliary. In her will, she left a legacy-creating unrestricted gift of \$18,000 to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin, was a devoted member of Ross Wilcox Unit 79. She joined the Auxiliary in 1929 and was active until her passing in 1969. With her generous gift of \$106,000, she enabled the American Legion Auxiliary to establish and initially fund the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund in 1969. Because of Helen, the Auxiliary continues to offer grant assistance today to its members.

FOR TOMORROW



In 1947, ALA members Mrs. J.B. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. H. Whitehead show the true spirit of Christmas in Florida where the annual Joy Shop provides gifts to patients to send to their families. Joy continues to be spread by Auxiliary members in VA medical centers today across the country.

“The ALA is a family. I’ve grown up in this family. My parents signed me up when I was 4 days old. My entire family: parents, aunts, uncles, et cetera, are all gone. My whole family is the ALA. So, it makes sense for me to leave money to the Auxiliary — my family. The hardest part of a will or a trust is that you have to think about, ‘Someday, I’m not going to be here,’ and most people don’t like to think about that. I might not be here tomorrow, but when I’m gone, I can make a difference. We care so much about our mission, but we need to keep our mission alive so that when we’re gone, the work continues. We go to meetings; we volunteer; sometimes we don’t think beyond our own little time. And I think that’s what people forget.”

★ Nancy Brown-Park, Department of California

Frequently Asked Questions

★ I'm not wealthy. So, even a small amount helps?

That's right! You don't need a large estate to give to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation and make your lasting impact. If every member who passed away since 2011 had bequeathed \$100 to the Auxiliary or ALA Foundation, the total would have exceeded \$9.5 million! Small amounts collectively add up!

★ How do I know which giving option is right for me?

Deciding on a planned gift is much simpler than it may appear:

Step 1: Consider your charitable passions.

Step 2: Identify your financial plans and goals.

Step 3: Talk with National Headquarters about your desire to give.

Step 4: Discuss your ideas and goals with your personal accountant or financial advisor.

Step 5: Take the necessary steps to enact your goal and fulfill your charitable passions.

★ How will my planned gift be used?

Your generous donations go directly to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation — serving veterans, the military, and their families.

★ Do I need to request a specific use for my gift?

No, you don't need to specify any particular use for your gift.

In fact, we suggest giving an unrestricted gift so that your gift is used where the need is the greatest.

★ Can I donate to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation?

Yes. Donating to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will positively impact the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding programs of the ALA today and for future generations.

★ Can I donate to my ALA department/state?

Yes, you can bequeath a donation to your American Legion Auxiliary department. Each state is different, so we encourage you to contact your department secretary to find out how to proceed.

★ Do I need to notify ALA National Headquarters if I intend to leave a bequest?

While you do not have to notify ALA National Headquarters of your intent, we strongly suggest that you do. This will allow us to properly thank you for your support, learn more about your intent, and help you during the process.



ALA's 2023 Salute to Servicemembers Award recipients. Established in 2003, the award honors those currently serving in all branches of the U.S. military.

For More Information

The American Legion Auxiliary would like to encourage anyone considering a planned gift or who already has included the American Legion Auxiliary in their financial and/or estate plans to inform us of your intentions and allow us the opportunity to properly thank you for your generosity.

To learn more about your giving options, please visit www.ALAforVeterans.org or contact our Development Division at (317) 569-4500 or development@ALAforVeterans.org.

The American Legion Auxiliary gratefully acknowledges our members mentioned in this guide. We thank them for their willingness to share their stories about the importance of including the American Legion Auxiliary or ALA Foundation in their estate planning.

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Notes

Give today so we can help him protect our freedom tomorrow

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation ensures our programs serve future generations of U.S. veterans, military, and their families.

When you give to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, you help secure our mission and heritage of service to enhance the quality of life for those who serve us now and those who will serve us tomorrow.

Continue your legacy of service by sending a check or money order payable to:

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation
American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Or visit us online at www.ALAFoundation.org/donate.



Photo: Aly Mac Images / Amanda Macer

 AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY
FOUNDATION

Visit us online at www.ALAFoundation.org

American Legion Auxiliary Mission:

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.



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