



# ROCKLAND COMMUNITY FARM NETWORK PLANNED GIVING GUIDE

## Why Planned Giving Matters ?

For decades, Rockland Community Farm Network (RCFN) has connected people, land, and purpose — strengthening local food systems, protecting farmland, and cultivating spaces where everyone belongs. Your support makes this work possible every day.

Planned Giving — also called Legacy Giving — is one of the most powerful ways to ensure that your values live on. It allows you to make a lasting difference in your community without affecting your current finances. By including RCFN in your estate plans, you help:

-  Preserve Rockland's farmland and open space.
-  Protect pollinators and native habitats.
-  Support education and food access programs.
-  Sustain the community farm network for generations to come.

This isn't just a gift for the future — it's an enduring statement of what you believe in. For Rockland County, where many residents own property and care deeply about preserving local land, planned giving is one of the most natural ways to give back.

## What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving simply means creating a future gift to RCFN through your will, trust, or other estate plans. It's flexible, customizable, and often costs nothing today. You can:

- **Designate a fixed amount or percentage** of your estate.
- **Name RCFN as a beneficiary** of a retirement plan or life insurance policy.
- **Leave property or securities** to support our mission.
- **Create a memorial gift** honoring someone who shares your values.

Every gift, large or small, ensures that the farmland, gardens, and pollinator habitats you love will continue to thrive.

## Ways to Give Through Your Estate

### A Gift in Your Will or Trust

The most common way to make a lasting impact. You can leave:

- A **specific amount** (e.g., "I give \$10,000 to RCFN.")
- A **percentage** of your estate (e.g., "I give 10% of my estate to RCFN.")
- The **residual** — whatever remains after other gifts are distributed.

### Sample Language:

"I give and bequeath to Rockland Community Farm Network, a nonprofit organization located in New City, New York, Federal Tax ID # [insert EIN], the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_% of my estate, or the residue of my estate) for its general charitable purposes."



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## Ways to Give Through Your Estate (continued)

### Retirement Accounts (IRA, 401k, or 403b)

Naming RCFN as a **beneficiary** of your retirement account is easy and can reduce taxes on your estate. You simply complete a form with your plan administrator — no lawyer required.

### Life Insurance Policies

You can name RCFN as a primary or **contingent beneficiary** of a life insurance policy you no longer need. This converts an existing asset into a lasting legacy for your community.

### Appreciated Securities or Real Estate

You can gift appreciated stocks, mutual funds, or property — helping RCFN while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes.

These gifts can be made during your lifetime or through your estate.

### Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

If you have a Donor-Advised Fund, you can name RCFN as a beneficiary to continue your charitable impact beyond your lifetime.

## Our Promise to You

We understand that planned giving is deeply personal. When you include RCFN in your estate plans, you can count on us to:

1. **Honor your intent** — your gift will be used as you direct.
2. **Respect your privacy** — you can remain anonymous if you wish.
3. **Be transparent and accountable** — we will manage every gift with care and integrity.
4. **Keep you connected** — you'll receive updates about the lasting impact of your generosity.

### The Rooted Legacy Circle

Those who include RCFN in their plans are invited to join our **Rooted Legacy Circle**, a growing community of donors who've made an enduring commitment to Rockland's future.

#### Members receive:

- Invitations to annual appreciation events
- Recognition in select publications (if desired)
- Updates on the lasting impact of legacy gifts
- The joy of knowing their love for this community will continue to grow

You can join simply by letting us know you've included RCFN in your plans — no gift documentation required.



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## How to Begin

### Step 1: Review your assets

Think about what you own — savings, home equity, retirement accounts, life insurance — and what matters most to you.

### Step 2: Choose your gift type

Decide whether to include a bequest in your will, designate RCFN as a beneficiary, or give another way.

### Step 3: Talk with your advisor

Share this guide and sample language with your attorney, accountant, or financial advisor.

### Step 4: Let us know

We'd love to thank you personally and welcome you into our Rooted Legacy Circle.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do I need to be wealthy to leave a planned gift?

Not at all. Most planned gifts are modest percentages of estates or small fixed amounts that anyone can include.

### Can I change my mind later?

Yes. You remain in full control of your estate plan and can modify your gift at any time.

### Will this affect my current finances?

No. Planned gifts are typically made after your lifetime and do not impact your day-to-day income.

### Can I designate my gift for a specific purpose?

Absolutely. You may direct your gift to general support or a specific area like farmland preservation, education, or pollinator habitats.

## Contact Us

We're here to help you explore your options — confidentially and without obligation.

### Rockland Community Farm Network

📍 New City, NY

✉️ [amanda@rocklandcfm.org](mailto:amanda@rocklandcfm.org)

☎️ (646)210-7890

Let's grow a legacy that lasts.