



## Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts have played an important part in funding many of the Easterseals Colorado programs that give people with disabilities the ability to live, work and play in their communities

Individuals who include Easterseals Colorado in their Will, Trust or other charitable deferred gift become a member of the Sunburst Legacy Society. A Society where you find yourself among a circle of friends who are determined to keep the Easterseals mission alive ... forever.

### What are the advantages of making a bequest?

- It is not payable until death, so it does not affect your assets or cash flow during your lifetime;
- It is private – your will is not filed or made public until your death; and
- It is revocable – you can change the provisions in your will at any time until death.

### What is the best way to include Easterseals Colorado in your Will?

When making a provision to our agency in your Will, you'll want to make sure that your intention is stated clearly and that you have our correct name and address. It would be prudent if you or your advisor calls us before drafting the document to ensure that the information you are including is accurate.

#### Here are some of your options:

- *How will your gift be used:* You may opt to designate a specific program at Easterseals Colorado as beneficiary of your gift, or you may leave your gift to be used at the discretion of our Board of Directors.
- *What form should your gift take:* You may choose to designate a specific sum that our agency receives from your estate (for example \$5,000), or you may choose to leave a percentage of your estate (for example 5%).
- *What asset should you use:* You can give almost any kind of asset through a bequest, including cash, securities, an interest in real estate, tangible personal property, or the remainder of your IRA, tax-sheltered annuity, qualified pension, or profit-sharing plan.

## Bequest

Below are samples of language for naming Easterseals Colorado as a beneficiary. You may also change your beneficiaries at any time, should your circumstances change.

**Residual Bequest.** This is a very popular choice for charitable bequests because it ensures that loved ones receive their distribution before any distribution to charity. *"I devise the residual of my estate, after the satisfaction of all specific bequests and the payment of all taxes and other costs attending my death, to Easterseals Colorado, a not-for profit corporation, Tax ID# 84-0412575."*

**General/Fixed Dollar Bequest.** A stated sum of money, usually cash, to a beneficiary. *"I bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Easterseals Colorado, a not-for-profit corporation, Tax ID# 84-0412575."*

**Percentage Bequest.** A stated percentage of your estate to a beneficiary. *"I bequeath to Easterseals Colorado, a not-for-profit corporation, Tax ID# 84-0412575, an amount equal to \_\_\_\_\_% of the net value of my estate as finally determined for federal estate tax purposes."*

**Contingent Bequest.** Assumes you want to leave your entire estate to family and friends. However, in the event that you outlive any of your beneficiaries, it provides an opportunity to designate Easterseals Colorado to receive that portion of the estate. *"In the event that (name of the beneficiary) does not survive me, I designate Easterseals Colorado, a not-for-profit corporation, Tax ID# 84-0412575, as the devisee of this bequest of (see above for language specific to different types of bequests.)"*

## Retirement Plan

Because retirement plans are taxed differently than most assets, they may actually become a tax liability to individual heirs. Retirement funds may be subject to both estate and income taxes. Donating a specific dollar amount or a percentage of a retirement plan to a tax-exempt organization like Easterseals Colorado may, therefore, be an attractive option.

## Bank Accounts, Certificates of Deposit or Brokerage Accounts

By placing a payable on death (POD) designation on your bank account or certificate of deposit, you can name Easterseals Colorado as the beneficiary of all the funds upon your death. By placing a transfer on death (TOD) designation on your brokerage or investment account, you can name Easterseals Colorado as the beneficiary of all, or a percentage of, the account. Simply contact your bank or brokerage firm for the appropriate form.

## Life Insurance and Annuities

You can name Easterseals Colorado as the beneficiary of all, or a percentage of, your life insurance or annuity. Simply contact your bank or insurance company for a beneficiary designation form.

*Disclaimer: The information above regarding planned giving is intended to assist you in your charitable planning. It is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Please consult with your attorney or other advisor for professional advice and to discuss how this information can benefit you as you consider your financial and philanthropic goals.*