

Spring 2008 Newsletter

As with every new initiative, it takes some time to get off the ground. However, we are extremely thankful for the responses received from the community and we recognize the Lord's rich blessings as we move forward with the vision to serve God and our neighbour by financially assisting Reformed causes that are engaged in education and charitable initiatives

Over the Fall and Winter months we have made presentations at a number of school membership meetings and board meetings, and look forward to do the same when invited by other school societies. Generally, the reaction has been very positive. Many expressed agreement that the time had come for a foundation that would, as one of its objectives, assist Canadian Reformed Schools in keeping tuition affordable.

A brochure outlining Harvest Endowment Foundation goals and objectives has been distributed to most Canadian Reformed churches in Ontario resulting in a number of inquiries. As we continue to partner with the school societies, distribution of material will be better coordinated through local contacts

Also the Foundation's web site has recorded several hits over the last few months. It is still under construction and more information will be added over time, including information about various gift giving options, copies of newsletters, coming events and other Harvest activities.

Our Heavenly Father has blessed the work so much that already this year Harvest Foundation will be in a position to make endowments to all of the partner schools in the Fall of this year. Although for most schools these will, for now, be modest sums, we

anticipate continued growth over the years as more and more members in our community become aware of the opportunities Harvest Endowment Foundation offers in its planned giving program.

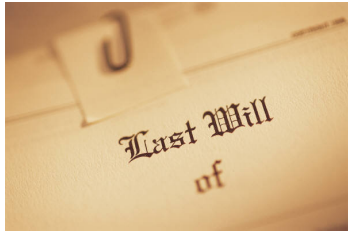
The planned giving program is a visionary step that benefits our schools and its supporters. As partners in giving, your gift is invested. The income earned from the investments is given back to the schools in our Reformed community.

Almost 90% of planned gifts given to charitable organizations are received through bequests. A bequest in a will can be a percentage of an estate, a particular asset, or a specific dollar amount or a portion of residue. Donors take great satisfaction in supporting a favourite charity while retaining control of property throughout their lifetime. A bequest can provide significant tax advantages to the estate.

Bequests can be:

- **General** – giving Harvest Endowment Foundation the ability to use the funds in the area of greatest need.
- **Specified** – donor can specify the use of the funds from their bequest. This means they can direct funds to a specific partner school or charity that has special meaning for the donor.
- **Contingent** – a bequest that results after certain criteria has been met, e.g. if a named beneficiary does not survive the donor, their portion of the estate goes to the charity.

Recognizing the importance of planned gifts,



the federal government encourages individuals to make bequests to charitable causes. Have

you considered Reformed education as a charity close to your heart?

In future newsletters other gift options will be described in more detail. Gifts can of course also be given during the life time of the donor. This can be in the form of cash, stocks, property, etc.

The Foundation has adopted a gift acceptance policy which will be shared with prospective donors, and will be made available upon request. The following are some excerpts. *Harvest Endowment Foundation recognizes that it has been richly blessed in many areas, including its financial wellbeing. Christians are called to give regularly and generously of their resources, proportionately to what they have received from the Lord. The Foundation gratefully receives every gift, large or small, cheerfully given in response to God's grace. In keeping with Biblical principles of giving, gifts ought to be given anonymously – that is without expectation of recognition to the donor or another person. Harvest will seek to acknowledge special gifts through direct correspondence with the donor or the donor's estate.*

Harvest Endowment Foundation is pleased and eager to assist you in these matters on a confidential basis. Should you have any questions or would like more information on gift giving options contact:

Harvest Foundation at 905-407-9797, or gnordeman@harvestfoundation.ca

Top 10 things you could do today to leave a bequest gift

1. Prepare a will. A will ensures your assets are distributed according to your wishes.
2. Think about who should receive your gift and why. Maybe you are convinced of the undeniable importance of Reformed education and you wish to ensure future generations have the same opportunities.
3. Leave gifts in your will for charitable organizations that made a difference in your life or the lives of loved ones or friends. Imagine the difference it would make in our community if everyone made a gift.
4. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will.
5. Consider using assets for your charitable gift. These include stocks, mutual funds, bonds, term deposits, and more. All gifts provide tax savings, but some are more tax-effective than others.
6. Establish a charitable annuity with Harvest as the beneficiary.
7. Name Harvest as the beneficiary of an existing or paid-up life insurance policy, or RRSP.
8. Remember loved ones with memorial gifts.
9. Encourage family and friends to leave gifts to charitable causes dear to their hearts. Children speak to your parents.
10. Ask your professional advisor to include charitable giving as part of their advice to all clients.