



SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

Here is some sample bequest language that you might use in your Will or Living Trust:

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR HERITAGE CIRCLE

Creating positive change in Indian Country through legacy giving.

You can help by joining our Heritage Circle which enables you to donate using our planned giving options. National Relief Charities offers a variety of ways that you can donate to a great cause while achieving your financial goals:

- **Bequest in your Will or Trust**
- **Life Insurance policy donation**
- **Retirement plan donation**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As a Heritage Circle member you will be periodically informed of our efforts to provide program services to American Indians in need living in the areas we serve. Our Planned Giving staff will be available to you to answer questions you may have about legacy gift planning or about our many program services. As a token of our appreciation you will receive a gift given to you, in honor of your legacy gift to Indian People. This gift will incorporate a highly stylized Medicine Wheel in its design. Our wheel is divided into four sections, which signifies the four directions of north, south, east and west. The colors stand for the four races of man and the circle design symbolizes the circle of life. We included the feathers in our design to embody the strength, pride and independence the eagle has held in many American Indian cultures. ■

The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to estate and income tax include federal tax only. Individual state taxes and/or state law may impact your results.

UNRESTRICTED GIFT*:

I give, devise, and bequeath to National Relief Charities, Elkwood, VA, the sum of \$ _____ for its general purposes.

CONTINGENCY GIFT:

In the event that _____ predeceases me, I give, devise, and bequeath his/her bequest or share to National Relief Charities, Elkwood, VA, to be used for its general purposes.

**Please Note: You may choose to name a specific program of National Relief Charities in your Will. For restricted gifts, it may be possible to specify the specific program service you want to give to. Please contact our Planned Giving office toll free at 1-877-853-6474.*

OUR MISSION IS:

To help Native American people improve the quality of their lives by providing opportunities for them to bring about positive changes in their communities.

A Program of National Relief Charities
Planned Giving Administration Office
PO Box 118 • Elkwood, VA 22718
(877) 853-6474

www.nrcprograms.org



TRADITIONS IN GIVING

NATIONAL RELIEF CHARITIES

FALL 2011

Give a Meaningful Gift

You have worked hard to accumulate assets throughout your life. When you create a Will, you have the ability to determine how your assets are distributed at death.

To learn how to make a meaningful gift that better communicates your beliefs and values, please send for our FREE Information Kit.



From a Dark Past to a Bright Future

Heritage Circle Member Kathryn Scott is crafting a legacy of hope

No one among us can change the past. We can only try to improve the future.

Like many Americans, Kathryn Scott, a talented New York designer, wanted to learn more about her family history: who were her ancestors and what were their lives like?

She conducted research and learned more about William Henry Scott, the first in her family to reach America's shores back in 1668. She learned about William's son Joseph Scott, who was captured during the French and Indian Wars, and about Joseph's son Joel, who fought during the Revolutionary War.

Then Kathryn made a discovery that disturbed her.

She had always believed that Joel's nephew, General Winfield Scott, had led troops in the Civil War. Instead, she discovered he was one of many in the U.S. Army who forced American Indians from their homes and land following President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830: the act which led to the "The Trail of Tears." [See inside]

"When I told my family about my discovery," she says, "I could barely speak because of the lump in my throat that blocked my words."



It wasn't that she felt responsible. The Trail of Tears, which many historians now consider an act of genocide, took place more than a century before she was born.

In fact, Kathryn had grown up with a profound respect for Native Americans. A childhood photo shows Kathryn and her brother standing with respectful dignity in Indian regalia they had created. And Kathryn's mother had not only felt a connection to Native American culture, but had avidly collected Navajo and Zuni jewelry, decorative pots and other traditional artifacts.

Still, Kathryn felt dismayed by her own ignorance of her ancestor's role in the Trail of Tears. "I eagerly began to read everything I could find to understand our real history," she says, "and to understand the current Native American situation."

Once again, Kathryn made a discovery.

She learned about chronic poverty, hunger, health problems, lack of educational opportunity and other conditions that are largely unknown to millions of Americans, but which face many Native Americans on a daily basis.

The opportunity before her, Kathryn realized, wasn't to change the past, but instead to use her talents, her awareness, her compassion and her deep respect for Native Americans ... to help change the future.

That Christmas after her discovery, she says, "I had an idea which represented a true gift from the heart." Instead of giving material gifts to her family and friends, who all had enough things and lived comfortably, she used



Kathryn and her brother wore these American Indian regalia with a sense of play, but also with respect and dignity.



the money to help pay for fuel and firewood vouchers which could help Native Elders during the cold winter months.

"By helping people in need," she says, "that Christmas felt the way I always thought it should."

Kathryn continues to support Native American causes through her donations to National Relief

Charities as a Member of the Heritage Circle. She has a particular passion for education, because she knows that helping young people succeed in school and go to college is the key to the future for American Indian communities.

But Kathryn is expressing her compassion through more than money. "I had the idea to design a series of serving dishes using

the Native American culture as the specific reference for each element of the design," she says. "And all profit from potential sales could go directly to help Native American people."

The pipestone covered platter, shown below, represents her first design. From its round shape, which symbolizes the Creator Sun, to its silver handle and embellishments, to honor Native American craftsmanship in silver, her work is a beautiful, respectful and deeply meaningful tribute to American Indian tradition and culture.

It takes honesty to confront the past. It takes conviction to change the future. Through her passion and generosity, Kathryn Scott is ensuring that her family legacy going forward will be one she — and her young daughter — will be rightly proud of.

More information about Kathryn Scott and her work can be found at www.kathrynscott.com. ■



Kathryn Scott designed this pipestone covered platter with an eye for Native American symbolism.



The Trail of Tears: American Disgrace

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 called for the U.S. government to negotiate for American Indian lands. For the next eight years, through a series of negotiations in good faith and bad, through court battles lost and won, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cree, Chickasaw, Seminole (once part of the Cree), and Muscogee Creek tribes tried desperately to hold onto the land that was sacred to them. Cherokee Aitooweyah wrote, "We, the great mass of people think only of the love we have to our land."

In 1838, President Van Buren ordered the implementation of the Treaty of New Echota, through which U.S. Army troops under the command of General Winfield Scott forced Cherokees from their homes and imprisoned them in 31 forts.

U.S. Army Private John G. Barnett would later recall, "I saw the helpless Cherokees arrested and dragged from their homes and driven at the bayonet point into the stockades. I saw them loaded like cattle or sheep into 645 wagons and started toward the west."

That journey, the Trail of Tears, whether taken by wagon or foot, would prove long, harrowing and tragic. At least 8,000 Native American people are believed to have died along the way. But the term "Trail of Tears" does not only refer to tears shed for those who died.

It refers to tears for the forcible removal from land and culture. It refers to tears for the immutable grief for something lost which can never be fully regained. And it predicts many more tears that would be shed: in further betrayals, loss of land, poverty and suffering still to come. ■

The Impact of Your Kindness

Over the last year we have fed thousands ... increased health and comfort ... and nurtured a sense of hope. But there is so much more that we must do. Neglect, injustice, poverty and lack of opportunity have created serious systemic problems for the Native American communities we serve. It will take years to make lasting improvements and increase self-sufficiency. That is why your generous, sustained support is so important.

Thank you