

Making a Difference!

Recently I heard a story from a college administrator about a student at their scholarship recognition banquet. At the event families that have given gifts to provide student scholarships have the opportunity to meet the students receiving the aid, which in many cases enabled the student to attend school. At each gathering several recipients are selected to make a presentation to the group telling their story, explaining how the gift impacted them.

After writing down their ideas, submitting them for approval and practicing their comments in preparation for the big night, a huge surprise happened the evening of the event. A student stepped to the podium with the notes, paused and started by saying he was just going to speak from the heart, ignoring the prepared remarks. Can you imagine the concern of the administrator? What would be said?

The student continued by saying the significance of the night just hit him! While feeling very blessed to be the recipient of the scholarship, he also felt deprived. Looking out over the audience, he realized that each of the scholarship recipients was sitting with the family that made the gift impacting the student. But his donor had passed away. He would not be able to personally thank his donor for making school possible and share his story.

Not all of you may experience the excitement of seeing directly how your Charitable Gift is impacting a specific individual. Not all of you may be able to physically go on the mission trip to a far off land to directly do the work, see the smiling faces and be part of the story making a difference in a new friend's life.

But we can all have the same impact. If you are able to make a current gift to support your favorite ministry, you may experience the joy of seeing the difference you are making today. Another way that many people make an even larger impact is including a Legacy Gift as part of a well thought out Christian Estate Plan. While you may not see the difference your gift makes during your lifetime, you feel the same joy, knowing that your generosity will change someone's life as you experience the eternal bliss of Heaven.

If you have any questions or would like assistance reviewing or getting started with your Plan, contact CEF. With no cost to you, we would like to help you put your Plan in place. To see some helpful resources go to our website at www.mi-cef.org and click on Gift Planning.

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This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice. Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.