

Legacy and Hope

News and stories of impact from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation



Legacy is one of the most powerful expressions of faith

Message from the Executive Director

When someone chooses to remember the Church in their estate plans, they are extending their values, their gratitude, and their hope for the future into the lives of generations they may never meet. These gifts strengthen ministry, nurture leadership, and ensure that the work we cherish today continues long into tomorrow. Planned giving is not about wealth – it's about intention. It's about reflecting on the blessings we've received and imagining the difference we can make when we plant seeds for the future. I am continually moved by the generosity of those who choose to leave a legacy through the Foundation, and I am honoured to walk alongside donors as they explore what that legacy might look like.

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Wine, Wisdom & Generosity/ Gather Your Legacy Events

This year's Wine, Wisdom & Generosity/Gather Your Legacy gatherings brought people together across the Diocese for thoughtful conversations about legacy, stewardship, and the future of our Church. These evenings offered a warm, welcoming space to explore how planned gifts can reflect personal values and strengthen ministries for generations to come. The energy and openness of these events continue to remind us that generosity grows in community — through shared stories, shared faith, and shared hope.

Community Wills Clinic

The Foundation's Community Wills Clinic continues to be a meaningful resource for parishioners who want to ensure their affairs are in order. By offering accessible, supportive guidance, the clinic helps individuals create or update their wills with confidence and clarity. For many, this is also the moment they begin thinking about how their legacy might support the ministries that shaped their lives.

STORIES OF IMPACT

“Breakfast is the only meal I can count on.”

St. Bart's Breakfast Ministry

Supported by a Foundation endowment, this ministry offers hot meals and a place of belonging for neighbours experiencing homelessness or food insecurity. “I come here because people know my name. It's not just breakfast — it's belonging.”

LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

The Cowling Bursary

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation invites you to support an initiative that resonates with the harmony of community and creativity: the Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music. Established by friends and family to honor Mr. Cowling's legacy, this bursary is a testament to his life's work—enhancing worship through music that speaks to all ages and stages of faith.

Interested in hosting an event?

If you are interested in hosting a Wine, Wisdom & Generosity/Gather Your Legacy gathering or a Community Wills Clinic, please contact Mary Lynne Stewart, Executive Director of the Foundation at adtf@toronto.anglican.ca.

Understanding the Different Ways to Leave a Legacy

Planned gifts come in many forms, and each one offers a meaningful way to support the ministries and values that matter most. Many donors are surprised by how simple these options can be — and how beautifully they can align with their personal story.

Bequests in a Will

A bequest is one of the most accessible and heartfelt ways to create a legacy. Donors can leave a specific amount, a percentage of their estate, or the residue after other commitments are met. This approach allows individuals to care for loved ones first while still supporting the Church's future.

Beneficiary Designations

Some of the most impactful legacy gifts happen outside a will. Naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a RRSP, RRIF, TFSA, pension plan, or life insurance policy is simple to arrange and may offer tax advantages to an estate. These gifts often reflect a donor's long-standing relationship with the Church and their desire to support its mission beyond their lifetime.

Gifts of Securities

Donating publicly traded securities — such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds — can be a tax-efficient way to give. When transferred directly, these gifts may eliminate capital gains tax and allow donors to make a larger impact than they thought possible.

Endowment Gifts

Some donors choose to create or contribute to an endowment, ensuring their support continues year after year. Endowments are a powerful way to sustain ministries, leadership development, and outreach far into the future.

Life Insurance Gifts

A donor can name the Foundation as the owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This can turn modest annual premiums into a significant future gift, making it an appealing option for those who want to create a lasting legacy without affecting current financial needs.



Willfora Tool

For those beginning to think about their estate plans, Willfora offers a simple, accessible way to create a will online at no cost. Many donors appreciate how easy it is to include a charitable gift if they choose, and how the platform guides them through each step with clarity and care. For more information about Willfora, please visit give.willfora.com/charities/anglican-diocese-of-toronto-foundation.

STORIES OF IMPACT

“I could answer God’s call because someone believed in me.”

– Theological Education Bursary Recipient

A young postulant preparing for ordained ministry faced a familiar barrier: how to afford seminary. Through the Foundation’s bursary program, she received support that allowed her to focus on formation rather than finances. “The Foundation’s bursary made it possible for me to say yes to God’s call.”

What Your Generosity Makes Possible

Your generosity strengthens ministries, lifts up communities, and opens doors for people across the Diocese. Every gift — large or small — becomes part of a much bigger story of hope, healing, and transformation. Through your support, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation is able to:

- Equip future leaders
- Feed neighbours with dignity
- Walk alongside Indigenous communities
- Deepen spiritual formation
- Sustain the Church’s music for generations
- Spark new and emerging ministries

LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

Catherine Keating’s Gift

Catherine Keating believed deeply in the power of the Church. Her legacy gift reflects a lifetime of gratitude — a way of giving back to the ministries that supported her spiritual journey. Her bequest now strengthens programs that were close to her heart, ensuring that others will experience the same sense of belonging and hope that she found in her parish. Her generosity continues to inspire others who are discerning how their own values might live on through the Church’s ministries.

Join an unstoppable community of supporters proclaiming the Gospel and investing in new and emerging ministries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Mary Lynne Stewart, Executive Director
Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation
135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON M5C 1L8

P: [416-505-6537](tel:416-505-6537)

E: adtf@toronto.anglican.ca



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