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HOPE HORIZON EAST PALO ALTO LAUNCHES LEGACY CIRCLE PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL ESTATE PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK

Since 2008, US House of Representatives Designates 3rd Week of October National Estate Planning Awareness Week to Highlight Planned Giving's Critical Role in Financial Wellness

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif., October 17, 2022 —Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (Hope Horizon EPA) is jumping on the National Estate Planning Awareness Week (NEPAW) bandwagon, inviting the community to better understand estate planning's critical role in financial health. Hope Horizon EPA is using this October 17-23, 2022 national event to launch its own planned giving program with a [webpage](#) and the introduction of the Hope Horizon EPA Legacy Circle with three founding members.

Creating Sustainability

"We are grateful for every gift, but planned giving is also called legacy giving for a reason; It continues the legacy of one's life into the future and builds sustainability for non-profits like Hope Horizon EPA," said Tiffany Hong, Executive Director at Hope Horizon EPA. "We celebrate the nearly 40 years of prayer, volunteering and financial support from our champions. And, their planned gifts will help to ensure our sustainability for the next 40 years."

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When a supporter names Hope Horizon EPA in their will, funnels their IRA required minimum distributions to its work, transfers appreciated assets such as stocks or property to the non-profit, or designates giving towards Hope Horizon EPA in their donor advised fund, it makes a significant difference.

Why NEPAW was Created

More than half of Americans, an estimated 56%, do not have a will or trust plan in place, making estate planning a critically-overlooked component of a healthy financial life. This creates hardship, financial or otherwise, that can be diminished by advanced planning.

Assisted by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and 49 additional members of the House of Representatives, on September 27, 2008, House Resolution 1499 named every third week of October National Estate Planning Awareness Week. A copy of the resolution can be found [here](#).

Estate planning encompasses the growth, conservation, and transfer of a person's wealth through the development of an "estate plan." The plan creates a strategy for financial security during an individual's life, while ensuring the intended transfer of property and assets at death, taking into consideration each family's unique circumstances. A team of professionals might include an attorney, accountant, trust officer and financial planner, all working together for the benefit of their client.

Objections to Estate Planning

Many excuses are made by those putting off updating or creating their estate plan:

- *"I will get around to doing my estate plan one of these days."* Procrastination is one of the most common reasons people ignore the importance of estate plans. Why not take advantage of a week specifically designated to focus on getting your plans in place? Join us in participating in this year's celebration by reviewing or creating your estate plan.
- *"Estate planning is only for the wealthy."* All estates, no matter their size, need to be distributed, and if you haven't got a will, your assets will be distributed according to the

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rules established by the state you live in. Those rules may not necessarily follow what you would like; in some cases, they may even be the opposite of what you would like. Further, state distribution plans do not include any charitable gifts.

- *“Everything we own is in joint tenancy, so we don’t need an estate plan.”* While you might own everything jointly with your partner, thorough estate plans include much more than asset distribution. What happens if you become incapacitated? Without an estate plan that includes a power of attorney, a local judge may name a guardian to manage your financial affairs even if your partner is still alive but unable to manage this on his or her own.
- *“My children know my wishes should I be hospitalized and not expected to recover.”* Even though they may know your wishes, your children may not agree with them. In the high-stress environment of a hospital, your children may disagree with each other, and your wishes may not be followed. A thorough estate plan includes health care directives. These documents clearly state the level of care you wish should you be unable to speak for yourself, and they clearly identify one person to implement your wishes on your behalf.

“Everyone should consider creating or updating their will. It’s the best way to protect the things you’ve worked so hard to achieve for your loved ones,” said Ron Sanders, Vice Chairman of Hope Horizon EPA’s board of directors. “While planning, please consider naming Hope Horizon EPA as a benefactor.”

Planned Giving Statistics

According to Freewill Co., these intriguing statistics are true of those who write an estate plan with a charitable giving component:

- 60% of bequests come from women
- Single people are more likely to leave a bequest, and
- Pet owners are 55% more likely to leave a bequest.

FreeWill’s research has also shown that, due to demographic shifts, bequests and planned giving gifts are expected to experience a sharp tick up in the next few years (possibly even doubling) while outright giving might be reduced due to economic hardships and a possible recession.

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Hope Horizon EPA Legacy Circle

Hope Horizon EPA is pleased to be launching its program with three donors inaugurating the Hope Horizon EPA Legacy Circle: Martin Marcus Berndt and Byron and Marcella “Gayle” Chan.

Martin Marcus Berndt, who passed away on July 17, 2021 at the age of 88, included Hope Horizon EPA in his will. In lieu of flowers, Martin’s family also included Hope Horizon EPA as one of three charitable organizations to which gifts could be given in Martin’s honor. “Our dad would be proud to know that his estate gift to Hope Horizon EPA helped to launch the program,” said Esther Berndt, daughter of Martin Marcus Berndt. “He cared deeply about the gospel, East Palo Alto and children in general. He especially loved programs that combined children, the good news of Jesus Christ and God’s beautiful creation of the outdoors.”

Byron and Marcella “Gayle” Chan also updated their wills to include a bequest to Hope Horizon East Palo Alto to ensure that their legacy of caring for youth continues on as their legacy. “Where I want to see the most change made in the world is right here. Right in my own backyard -- the San Francisco Bay Area,” says Byron Chan. “Hope Horizon EPA is replacing the darkness and suffering in the lives of East Palo Alto youth with peace and goodwill, and the hopeful message of the gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. May what God has given Marcella and I equip Hope Horizon EPA to continue its mission.”

About Hope Horizon East Palo Alto

Hope Horizon East Palo Alto (formerly Bayshore Christian Ministries) is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1984 and located in East Palo Alto, Calif. Its mission is to equip the youth of East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so they have hope and a future. Hope Horizon EPA offers after-school, evening, and summer programs, using a relational, wholistic and collaborative approach to empower the next generation of community leaders. Our vision is that our alumni are active in their faith, possess hope, purpose and marketable skills and give back to their communities. To learn more, visit www.HopeHorizonEPA.org.

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