

# Legacy Gifts

Central Gardens of North Iowa is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and was established in 2000 on the grounds of the former Central School in downtown Clear Lake. It is the site of twenty-two themed gardens on its 2.75 acres and depends almost entirely upon volunteers to maintain the grounds and host events and other programming.

Living out its mission “to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun,” it is estimated that Central Gardens welcomes over 18,000 visitors from across the United States and internationally every year.

A fifteen-member board of directors makes fiduciary and policy decisions guided by these six commitments:

1. Promoting horticultural and environmental stewardship
2. Building the infrastructure of our free public garden space
3. Enhancing learning opportunities for members and guests
4. Being inviting to all
5. Being responsible stewards of our resources, and
6. Achieving excellence in all that we do.



Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc.  
PO Box 735  
Clear Lake, IA 50428



Legacy Gifts  
for Central Gardens



It is the mission of Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc. to provide a public, intergenerational garden environment that is welcoming, beautiful, calm, educational, recreational, and fun.

### Central Gardens of North Iowa

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Find us on Facebook!

Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization

Central Gardens of North Iowa, Inc. is the only free public garden space in a 90-mile radius of Clear Lake, IA. The splendor of the grounds and the vibrancy of the programming offered almost exclusively at no cost to participants offer a wonderful place to escape for some quiet time, meet friends for lunch, celebrate the wonders of nature and our changing seasons, host a wedding or other special celebration, or participate in over forty annual events. A permanent endowment fund has been in existence since the beginning of the formation of the Gardens to ensure its existence in perpetuity. Supporting Central Gardens through a legacy gift enables the greater north Iowa community and beyond to continue to enjoy this special place.



## WHAT LEGACY DO YOU WISH TO LEAVE?

Leaving a legacy is an important gift an individual can give to future generations. The decisions about how much of one's assets to bequest to family and other loved ones versus how much to leave to charitable groups can be a vexing one. However, this doesn't need to be an "either/or" decision. Loved ones and charitable organizations can both be beneficiaries of a life well-lived with careful planning.

You can leave a legacy to a charitable organization in a number of ways including bequeathing a specific asset (such as real estate), a specific dollar amount, or some or all of the "residue" of your estate in your will. You can name a charitable organization as a beneficiary of an IRA or "life insurance policy." We also encourage you to explore the Endow Iowa program, which provides additional tax advantages to your charitable giving.

Of course, the type of gift and how to make it depend on the circumstances of each particular donor. Prospective donors should seek the guidance of trusted legal and financial advisors in matters relating to estate planning and charitable giving.

For more information on charitable estate planning, we also recommend reading the information available in the "Planned Giving" section of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa resources, available at <http://cfneialegacy.org/>

You can designate a specific purpose for your legacy gift to Central Gardens or ask the Board of Directors to determine its best use. Budgetary needs for Central Gardens fall into these categories:

- Grounds enhancements and upkeep
- Operating costs
- Events and Programming (Most of our over 40 annual events are offered free of charge to maximize access for everyone)
- Contributions to the permanent endowment, ensuring that Central Gardens exists in perpetuity

When making a planned gift to the Central Gardens such as a gift in your will, naming a beneficiary designation of a retirement plan, or life insurance beneficiary, please contact us so that we can ensure your charitable intention is fulfilled.

