

Charity is not limited to your lifetime...

Most of us have given time, talent or money to good causes throughout our lives. Why? For one thing, it feels good to give to others, We all have our personal reason for charitable giving during our lifetime. But statistics show that only a few of us have thought about making a gift that will help long after we are gone.

By leaving a gift to Funeral Consumers Alliance in your Will or Estate Plan, you ensure that your assets continue to help others long after you are not here. For some, because charitable gifts reduce potential estate taxes, money otherwise lost to the government could be redirected to FCA.

“Thank you seems such an anemic phrase to describe all we owe to you and FCA. God bless you and your wonderful organization.”

Patricia Cairns

With our help, Mr and Mrs. Cairns were able to get a \$10,000 refund on a prepaid funeral contract from Ohio that wouldn't benefit them in their present home in South Carolina

A proud history of public service...

Since 1963, Funeral Consumers Alliance has stood as a permanent bulwark against the historical exploitation of the public by the funeral and burial industries, The national organization was created by the consensus of grassroots “memorial societies” around the nation that believed the nascent funeral consumer movement needed a national voice.

In addition to providing the public with objective, consumer-oriented advice on funeral arrangements, FCA and its affiliates pushed successfully for federal regulation of the funeral industry. After 10 years of our lobbying, the Federal Trade Commission enacted the Funeral Rule, which helps protect Americans from unscrupulous funeral sales practices.

Today, FCA and its 115 affiliate consumer organizations — many of which are among the original groups represented at the 1963 conference — serve close to 400,000 members nationwide.

The FCA national headquarters in Vermont provides affiliates with educational literature, updates on funeral-related legislation, and a strong national voice before Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, and the news media.

In addition to its national advocacy efforts, the national organization serves the public

directly. In a typical year, headquarters staff field:

- 10,000 telephone calls
- 3,000 emails
- Hundreds of letters

These communications range from inquiries about our local affiliates to pleas for help from families facing confusing and costly funeral arrangements.

“I carefully reviewed the FCA Web site and was both appalled and enlightened by what I read.... my wife and I feel that we owe a debt of gratitude to FCA for its willingness to assist us over the phone.”

Larry Faems, Florida

When Mr. Faems' mother-in-law died, he inquired at several funeral homes for prices and options. Having read FCA's literature, he discovered these businesses were violating Funeral Rule requirements and were vastly overpriced.

Mr. Faems called FCA and was able to locate an ethical funeral home that was charging prices that were “50 to 80 percent cheaper” than the others.

Your gift will help ensure FCA's continued public service...

Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. We do not have corporate sponsors, nor are we supported by the government. We owe our ability to serve the public to the generosity of people who value the work we do.

People contribute to us in all sorts of ways. Some give financially, some volunteer their time and services, and still others make a provision for FCA in their wills and final arrangements documents.

We all know someone who has asked that donations be made in their memory to a cause dear to them in life. Many people choose to go further by making provisions for that cause themselves.

What makes an appropriate gift?

Any amount. We sincerely appreciate any gift, because we know it comes from a deep, abiding commitment to Funeral Consumers Alliance and what it stands for.

How can I make a gift?

Gifts take many forms. While most people prefer to give gifts of cash, some like to give stocks, bonds, life insurance benefits, IRAs or real estate. We accept all gifts in the same spirit of thoughtfulness that they are given.

There are several easy ways to make a bequest. One long-time supporter added a simple provision in her will designating a percentage of her estate to be transferred to FCA. The advantage of this approach is that she didn't have to decide in advance how much to give. Her gift to Funeral Consumers Alliance was calculated and transferred only after her estate took care of other important obligations.

A sentence such as this in your will would suffice:

“I bequeath (dollar amount or a percentage of residual estate) to the Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in South Burlington, Vermont, as an unrestricted gift.”

Naming Funeral Consumers Alliance as a beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is another simple way to make a gift.

Whatever method you choose, your gratitude and support for our mission will be deeply appreciated by FCA and by the families who will benefit from the advocacy and service your generosity will help ensure!

For more information, please call
800-765-0107, or write to:

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33 Patchen Road, South Burlington, VT 05403

or email us at info@funcrals.org

Leave More than Memories



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