The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has launched an exciting capital campaign to strengthen our engagement with young adults and our lobbying. Moreover, the campaign will engage seasoned Friends through the revitalization of our Friend in Washington program. Our campaign—The World We Seek: Now is the Time—offers an unprecedented opportunity for supporters to establish bequest intentions and consider other deferred gifts to secure the long-term future of our organization and the next generation who will lead it.

Our goal is to add as much as $5 million in documented bequest intentions and other planned gifts from our community during the course of the 5-year campaign that began July 1, 2012. The variety of planned gifts described here provides opportunities for personal philanthropy as well as potential income and estate tax benefits.

We invite you to create a legacy at Friends Committee on National Legislation by including FCNL and/or the FCNL Education Fund in your estate plan. For many, this significant decision may represent their largest gift to FCNL. For FCNL, these gifts are legacies that carry forward the values Friends hold dear and help sustain this work for future generations.

**Now is the time.**

**Bequests: Including FCNL in your Will**
Whatever your age or the size of your Estate, you should have a will in order to assure proper stewardship of your assets. A valid will is perhaps the most straightforward way you can make certain that your wishes will be carried out, your family will be protected, unnecessary costs will be avoided and taxes will be minimized. A will is a legal document and must, in order to be effective, be executed with certain formalities required by state law. Within your will, you can set out your desires with regard to charitable contributions from your estate.

Bequests may be for: (a) a specific amount of money or percentage or share of the estate; (b) a residuary gift of a percentage or share of whatever is left of your estate after all other obligations have been satisfied; or (c) a contingent bequest, payable in the event that primary beneficiaries do not survive you. While your attorney...
can prepare the specific wording, the form used is often “I give to Friends Committee on National Legislation [or the FCNL Education Fund], 245 Second Street NE, Washington DC 20002…”

**Which Organization to Support?**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) fields the largest team of registered peace lobbyists in Washington, DC. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL’s multi-issue advocacy advances public policy based on Quaker testimonies of peace, equality, simplicity and truth. The FCNL Education Fund educates and informs members of the public and government leaders about issues that have long been of concern to Quakers and others. Either or both organizations would welcome the financial support made possible by the foresight and generosity of your legacy gift.

- Friends Committee on National Legislation is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) public interest lobby. It is neither a political action committee (PAC) nor a special interest lobby. Contributions to FCNL are not tax-deductible.
- The FCNL Education Fund is a parallel [501 (c)(3)] organization that supports the research, analysis and education for which FCNL is known and respected. Gifts to the FCNL Education Fund are tax-deductible.

Because contributions to the Friends Committee on National Legislation are not tax-deductible, it can sometimes be more challenging to raise funds for the organization. This means that even a relatively modest bequest (a small percentage or specific dollar amount) can yield significant benefit in helping continue its lobbying efforts in Washington and its grassroots efforts around the country.

Even if your own financial situation makes it more advantageous to make a substantial bequest to the FCNL Education Fund (tax-deductible), you may still wish to make an additional smaller bequest to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (not tax-deductible).

Note: Whether or not tax deductibility should be a consideration for any bequests you make in your will is determined by the characteristics of your own financial and estate planning circumstances. For many people’s estates, tax deductibility either doesn’t matter or may not be all that important. Since only about 1% of estates are large enough to be taxed by the federal government, there rarely is an estate tax benefit to naming FCNL Education Fund versus Friends Committee on National Legislation. We therefore are encouraging donors who are considering bequests to designate Friends Committee on National Legislation [501(c)(4)] as a beneficiary. Please check with a tax advisor to see if your estate will likely be subject to federal or state estate taxes.

**Making a Gift of Retirement Plan Assets**

Another helpful and simple way of including FCNL in your estate plans is to name Friends Committee on National Legislation and/or the FCNL Education Fund as a beneficiary of your retirement account or a portion thereof, such as an IRA, 401K, Deferred Compensation Account, etc. Simply obtain a “beneficiary designation form” from the company’s website or contact them to send you a copy; then submit the completed form to the company.

If you plan to leave some of your estate to individuals and some to non-profits like FCNL, it is often best to use your general estate (through your will) to make most of the bequests to individuals and use tax-deferred retirement accounts to benefit charities. The reason is that funds left to an individual from a tax-deferred account are generally subject to both estate and income tax, leaving less to the individual than if the same dollar amount were left to an individual from the general estate. Please check with a tax advisor to see how your estate can benefit.
Special IRA Tax Provision for Charitable Gifts
Donors age 70½ or older are eligible to move up to $100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to qualified charities, such as the FCNL Education Fund without having to pay income taxes on the distribution. To take advantage of the IRA tax provision, which was made permanent by Congress in December 2015, distributions to qualified charities must be made directly by your IRA plan administrator.

Gifts that Provide Income and Estate Tax Benefits
You can make a gift today, receive a charitable tax deduction today, and yet continue to receive income for life. The FCNL Education Fund offers several of these plans, each having different benefits for you. You can fund these with appreciated securities, for additional tax benefits. Among these plans are:
- Charitable Gift Annuity, which provides a guaranteed fixed income for life.
- Charitable Trusts, which can be tailored to your (and your family’s) particular needs.
- Pooled Life Income Fund, which provides variable income but has the potential of income growth over time.

Giving a Life Insurance Policy
Life insurance policies no longer needed for your family can be used to make a gift to FCNL. For fully paid-up policies, Friends Committee on National Legislation or FCNL Education Fund can be designated as both beneficiary and irrevocable owner. For other than paid-up policies, Friends Committee on National Legislation can be named beneficiary, or contingent beneficiary, or partial beneficiary (for nearly all estates, there is likely no advantage in naming FCNL Education Fund).

Residual Gifts from a Donor-Advised Fund
If you have a Donor-Advised Fund or Charitable Gift Fund at a brokerage or community foundation, you can name the FCNL Education Fund as a full or partial beneficiary when the fund is closed after your life.

Other Ways to Give
For additional information regarding these and other options on how to leave your legacy to either Friends Committee on National Legislation or the FCNL Education Fund, please contact Mary Comfort Ferrell, Planned Giving Director, at marycomfort@fcnl.org, or by phone at (800) 630-1330 x2539. And please let us know when you have included FCNL in your estate plans. Thank you!