



Legacy Circle:

A future of
opportunities



RENTON TECHNICAL
COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Leaving a legacy begins with a conversation.

We've seen your generosity and the life-changing impact your gifts have on our students. We know there are many wonderful causes and organizations you can support, and we are truly humbled that you've chosen the RTC Foundation as a focus of your philanthropy in the past.

Few people realize how legacy gifts underpin the direct support we offer students and the Renton Technical College through endowments. Adding a gift to the RTC Foundation to your will or estate planning is a simple act that passes on a lasting benefit for future students and their families.

We invite you to consider the following facts, with the hope that you will continue your impact on future generations by joining the RTC Foundation's Legacy Circle.

- 1.** A bequest is major philanthropy that anyone can do.
- 2.** Becoming a member of the Legacy Circle happens in three easy steps.

Leaving Your Legacy

A bequest is major philanthropy that anyone can do.

A bequest is a philanthropic gift anyone can make, and you don't have to be wealthy to create a lasting impact on our community. In fact, the majority of charitable bequests are made by middle and upper middle-income estates. A named endowment to the RTC Foundation, starting with \$25,000, will create a small fortune within a few decades generating annual scholarships and grants to support the education goals of students.

Does the thought of that give you joy?

A few ways you can be remembered for your gift include:

- Creating a scholarship in your name or in memory of a loved one.
- Building an endowment to support student tool and equipment needs.
- Creating an endowment to expand the Library's collections.
- Adding your bequest to an existing endowment to support scholarships or grants you value.
- Adding your bequest to the Faculty Development Endowment to support professional development and training for faculty members.
- Naming opportunities for classrooms, labs, outside areas, and campus buildings.

Become a Legacy Circle member in three easy steps

- 1.** In your will or estate plan, decide **how** you wish your gift to be used, such as a specific scholarship, type of grant, or for faculty and program support. You can also leave an "unrestricted" gift to make future investments in areas where the Foundation has the greatest needs. As noted previously, arrange to set aside at least \$25,000 for a named, endowed fund. It should be noted that any gift amount is truly valuable, and you decide where to invest your gift.
- 2.** In your will or estate plan, decide **how** you want to be remembered, or the preferred name of your endowed fund. You also have the option to remain anonymous.
- 3.** Let us know of **your intent** to leave a bequest to the RTC Foundation. This automatically provides membership in the Legacy Circle. We do not need to know the amount of your bequest. The amount of information you provide is completely up to you.



Fernando Del Valle & Kathy Magner

Retired appliance industry and real estate executives

Fernando “Fernie” Del Valle’s support for RTC is rooted in his family’s history.

Fernie’s father owned an appliance store in Idaho.

“I have early memories at age 12 carrying his toolbox when he went on service calls for his customers,” he recalled.

Now he and his wife, Kathy Magner, who has a successful career with Windermere Real Estate, are proud to support the College’s Major Appliance and Refrigeration Program and scholarships for all students.

Fernie served in the Navy and learned refrigeration technology on the USS Midway. Shortly after he finished his service, his father died tragically in a plane accident and Fernie took over running the family business. He later focused his career on the sales side working for the Amana Corporation. He moved to Seattle, working his way up to become Director of Operations for the region’s preeminent Albert Lee Appliances.

Early on in his career, Fernie connected with now retired RTC instructor Paul Baeder and asked how he could help the MART program. He provided used appliances for student training and joined the program’s advisory

committee. He now sits on the RTC Foundation Board, where he serves as Vice President of Development.

“Students get hired immediately out of the MART program,” said Fernie, “These are high-demand jobs, and companies need these skilled workers.”



Why are you including the RTC Foundation in your estate planning?

“Seeing the joy on the faces of the students and their families at my first Commencement was truly inspiring. It was one of the happiest occasions I’ve ever attended, and made me want to see other people have the same opportunities to graduate.”

How do you plan to spread the joy?

“Kathy and I have designated a gift through our will and have directed the funds toward scholarship support. We need people in the occupations that RTC trains students to access. These are important jobs that help to keep our economy healthy, and we see our bequest as the least we can do to help make that happen.”

A photograph of an elderly couple, Don and Pearl Jacobson. Don is on the left, wearing glasses and a light blue striped shirt. Pearl is on the right, wearing glasses and a floral patterned top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

Don and Pearl Jacobson

Former RTC Trustee and Renton School Board member

There have been many “firsts” for Don Jacobson that link him in special ways to the College’s history. He was the first Trustee when the Renton Vocational School became a technical college and part of the state’s community college system. He was the first official donor to the RTC Foundation, providing seed funds through the Building Trades Labor Temple and; the first to encourage Joe Holliday to setup his endowment for the Cement Masons & Plasterers apprenticeship program; and the first Renton Rotary president to provide a named scholarship fund for students through the RTC Foundation.

Don and his wife, Pearl, have called Renton their home since their families came from North Dakota 75 years ago near the end of World War II. They met as students at Renton High School and in 2019 celebrated their 70th anniversary. Their fingerprints are everywhere on campus and throughout the Renton community.

Why are you including the RTC Foundation in your estate planning?

“Vocational training has always been my interest and the valuable, real-world experience it provides students. The College is one of the top technical colleges in the nation and vital for our community, but people don’t always realize how expensive it is to keep the training current for the specialized skills that industry needs. Everything in our world is changing, and changing quickly, and new technology is impacting how the trades work and the skills people need. We want to do our part to keep RTC, and our students, on top.”

How do you plan to help keep RTC students on top?

“The challenge is always to take the step with your financial and estate planning to make sure things happen the way you want. We named the RTC Foundation as a beneficiary in a charitable remainder trust and let the Foundation staff know that we want those funds to go toward supporting scholarships. We believe scholarships are one of the most valuable investments we can make in the lives of students.”



Rebecca Haas

CEO, Team Lead and Realtor RE/MAX

The value and open-door access that community college offers is something Rebecca “Reba” Haas learned from her father. “My dad grew up in a small Kansas town and never had the opportunity to go to college,” said Reba. “The resources just weren’t there for him and he was incredibly smart and was self-taught. He even ended up teaching computer repair classes at a community college in his hometown.”

Reba experienced her own open door when she enrolled at North Seattle Community College to pursue a degree in business and marketing. “I had climbed the corporate ladder in the tech industry but wanted a change,” said Reba, “Seeing how a community or technical college is a place where people can start over or reinvent themselves really spoke to me.”

When Reba moved her business to Renton she continued her support of education through leadership roles with the Renton Chamber of Commerce and on the RTC Foundation Board as Vice President of Membership. “I am passionate about workforce development and about all the great training that goes on at the College. I have even taught continuing education classes at RTC.”

She also credits her late father with teaching her the value of giving back. “My dad gave back all his life and every day I want to ask, who can I serve today?”

Why are you including the RTC Foundation in your estate planning?

“I know personally what it means to have someone take an interest in you, and to see your potential. It’s transformational! Starting over in life, or even just starting your education takes resources, and I know the financial hurdles of paying out of pocket for school when you’re working and juggling other responsibilities.”

How do you plan to create transformational opportunities for students?

“Leaving a bequest to the RTC Foundation is about serving the students, even when I am no longer here. I have watched the level of financial oversight and commitment to transparency, and I know the RTC Foundation is a safe investment for me to leave part of my estate to support future students through a named scholarship in honor of my father.”

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: Can I be a member of the Legacy Circle with gifts other than bequests?

A: Yes. We welcome and honor gifts from donors who have made future commitments to the RTC Foundation. This includes those who have named the Foundation as a beneficiary of their retirement accounts (IRAs), life insurance policies, or of charitable remainder trusts.

Q: Is it easy to add a charitable gift to my will?

A: Yes. It is as easy as a phone call or a meeting with your estate attorney if you need to change an existing will.

Q: What if I don't have a will yet?

A: You are not alone and a surprising number of people – even those with large estates – have not made the essential step of laying out a will. We work with estate attorneys and financial planners who serve as volunteers through our Professional Advisory Committee and encourage you to reach out through the RTC Foundation website for more information www.foundation.rtc.edu

Q: Do I need to specify a dollar amount as a bequest?

A: No. You can leave any amount and direct your gift to an existing scholarship or grant. If your gift is \$25,000 or more, you are able to name an endowed fund and determine its purpose. You can also

arrange to leave a percentage of your estate's value or the residue of your estate after other gifts are made. This ensures that your family is taken care of first and your desire to support students and the work of the College continues for future generations.

Q: Does my bequest have to be cash?

A: No. There are a number of options for you to consider, including the gifting of:

- Stocks, bonds, or certificates of deposit.
- Make the RTC Foundation the full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA or retirement plan assets.
- Distribution of gifts through a charitable remainder trust, or charitable lead trust.
- Physical assets such as a house, condominium or commercial property, even artwork can be a valuable bequest.

Q: How do I know my intentions will be carried out?

A: We understand you want to feel secure that we will be good stewards of your bequest. As a 501(c)(3) public charity, we are governed by IRS laws with oversight from a board of directors who have a fiduciary duty in accordance with Washington State law and a quid pro quo agreement with the Renton Technical College. We are independently audited each year and adhere to charity best practices as outlined by the Donor Bill of Rights.

Meet our Professional Advisory Committee

We are grateful for these volunteers who devote their time and expertise to the Foundation, providing sound advice for our Legacy Circle outreach.



Jerry Brown, CFS
Investment Advisor Representative
Centaurus Financial Inc.
Bellevue



Karen Hansen
President
Wyman and Associates
Federal Way



Chae Kim, CPA
CFO
Legacy Group Interiors
Renton



Steven Matyas
Estate & Tax Law
Curran Law Firm
Kent



Bonnie Nichols
Ernst and Young, LLP
Bellevue



Ross Wolf, IAR, CLU, ChFC
Chapter President
American Financial Education Alliance
Bellevue

Information you need to make a bequest

Tax Status of the Renton Technical College Foundation.

The Renton Technical College Foundation (RTC Foundation), founded in 1994, is a tax-exempt organization, as described in subsection 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It qualifies as a public charitable organization under IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi). Contributions to the RTC Foundation are deductible according to the schedules established under income tax and estate tax regulations. The RTC Foundation is officially designated by the Washington State Board of Higher Education as qualified to receive and administer gifts in support of the mission of Renton Technical College.

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