



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

WALLA WALLA YMCA



No Time Like the Present

August is **National Make-A-Will Month**. This annual observance reminds us of the importance of planning ahead. Just as regular exercise helps us stay healthy and strong today, creating a will gives us the opportunity to define the legacy we want to leave for tomorrow. It provides peace of mind by ensuring our wishes for the people and causes we care about most are clearly expressed.

Did you know that an estimated 75% of Americans do not have a will? Many people postpone creating a will because they think they have plenty of time, aren't sure where to begin, believe it will be expensive, or feel they don't own enough to make it worthwhile.

The truth is, creating a will isn't about how much you own—it's about making your wishes known. Whether your estate is modest or substantial, a will can provide clarity for your loved ones and ensure the people and organizations you care about are remembered according to your wishes. For parents of young children, a will is also where you can name the person you want to care for your children if something unexpected were to happen.

Without a valid will, state law determines how assets held solely in your name are distributed. Depending on your circumstances, this can make settling an estate more time-consuming, more expensive, and less reflective of your personal intentions than if clear instructions had been provided.

There is no better time than now to plan for what matters most. Before August comes to a close, consider taking this important step for yourself and for those people you care about. A simple plan today can become a lasting gift of clarity, care, and peace of mind for tomorrow.

Once you've decided to create or update your will, you may also want to consider how it can reflect the values and causes that have been important throughout your life. Read on to learn more.



Planning Today for Tomorrow

When creating or updating their wills, many people choose to include a charitable gift to causes that have shaped their lives. If the YMCA has been one of those places for you or your family, we'd be honored to be remembered.

Leaving a gift, known as a **charitable bequest**, is one of the most powerful ways to support our work. When you include the YMCA in your will, you can care for your loved ones while sparking a generational impact that:

- Helps kids realize their potential;
- Offers ways for families to enjoy time together; and
- Supports individuals in living their healthiest lives.

Your thoughtful gift provides dependable, long-term support that helps the YMCA respond to changing community needs, invest in future generations, and plan confidently for the years ahead.

If you don't already have a will, our partner, [FreeWill](#), offers a **secure online tool** that can help you create one in about 20 minutes **at no cost**. Your plans remain completely

confidential and flexible, so you can update them whenever your life circumstances change.

If you have already included the YMCA in your will, we would welcome you [sharing your plans with us](#). Letting us know now allows us to thank you personally, recognize your generosity if you wish, and ensure our records are current.

If you'd like to learn more about creating a legacy through the YMCA, we invite you to stop by or give us a call. We would be happy to talk with you about designated and endowed funds that allow you to support our mission and the programs or services that matter most to you.

Thank you for considering how you can help strengthen our community for generations to come.

With gratitude,
Karen Hedine, CEO

[Create My Free Will and Legacy](#)

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Trivia Night](#)

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