



Discovery Southeast

Hands-on Nature Education for Southeast Alaskans

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Dear Friend of Discovery Southeast,

I am writing on what I hope is a topic of mutual interest: the long-term future and sustainability of Discovery Southeast. 25 years ago I was among the core group of volunteers that started the organization. Among other roles, I served as the organization's volunteer Director for its first two years. Now, a quarter century later, it is amazing and gratifying to see the organization as a treasured Juneau, and even regional, institution.

Looking ahead in 1989 it seemed 10 years out was "long-term," and thinking about an endowment or legacy giving was premature and seemed far-fetched. Now it no longer seems so idealistic to think about the next level: taking steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.

I left Juneau in 1992, but the organization has always remained close to my heart. I recently retired, along with my wife, Cleo, and we recently completed estate planning and writing our wills. I've known for several years I wanted to recognize DSE with some sort of legacy gift. But I didn't do anything because I was unsure of the best way to do it. Give to Juneau Community Foundation? Buy a charitable remainder trust? Start a trust? The size of the estate doesn't justify the expense and effort of a trust. Like many of us I expect, as long as my wife or I live we need our assets available.

We finally decided simply recognizing the organization in our wills was the simplest and surest way to realize our wishes. The details: We leave 25% of our estate to Discovery Southeast. If I predecease my wife an immediate "legacy donation" will be made to DSE, the exact amount depending on her circumstances at the time, while leaving the remainder of our assets available to her. When she dies, the 25% provision still applies. The gift is directed through the Juneau Community Foundation. The will states the organization may use the funds for any purpose approved by majority vote of the board of directors. If DSE is not a viable organization, the gift goes to an organization with a similar mission. I share these personal details because I suspect others may go through similar head scratching and have similar questions or thoughts.

And I hope sharing these details might encourage others to consider similar gifts. Our personal estate is not huge, and it will hopefully be many years before our gift is realized by the organization. But if we don't live *too* long the amount may be substantial. If our planning can stimulate others to think and plan similarly, then these gifts combined with others over the next two or three decades could see a real endowment fund grow for the organization.

I personally can't think of anything more satisfying as I age than helping to secure a future for an organization dedicated, ultimately, to the health of the earth and its people.

Scott Brylinsky
Sitka, Alaska
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