The Founding Grant Society

Honoring those extraordinary people who remember Stanford through bequests, charitable remainder trusts, and other life income gifts
IN 1891, JANE AND LELAND STANFORD CREATED STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN MEMORY of their son, Leland Stanford, Jr. Only 15 years old when he died of typhoid, his short life inspired his parents to establish a great place of learning, “in behalf of humanity and civilization.” More than 100 years later, their dream of a “university of high degree” has come true at Stanford, a hub of innovative research and education that is home to world-renowned faculty and exceptional students.

Jane and Leland Stanford realized their dream through their own gifts and bequests, which founded the university. Today, Stanford’s work continues thanks in large part to the bequests and gifts of alumni and friends.

When you provide for the university in your estate plans by means of a bequest, charitable trust, or other life income gift, you are ensuring the excellence of this great institution for generations to come. By joining those who have taken this step, you can take satisfaction from knowing that you are part of an important legacy.

“...each individual act of support reaffirms the Stanfords’ promise to children of the future ... that it will be better, that they are needed to make it better, and that a legacy of education will serve them more than any other.”

From the Founding Grant Society Charter

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The Stanfords’ Legacy

The crest of the Founding Grant Society
The Founding Grant Society

The Founding Grant Society recognizes and honors those extraordinary individuals whose estate and life income gifts will provide future support for Stanford, including the School of Medicine, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, the Hoover Institution, and the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts. Such gifts may benefit students or faculty in any field of study at the university. The society’s members include all those who provide for the university in their estate plans, through wills, trusts, life income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies, and other vehicles. According to its charter, the society “is intended to convey to those whom it honors that in so acting, the Stanfords’ university also becomes their university, and that each individual act of support reaffirms the Stanfords’ promise to children of the future … that it will be better, that they are needed to make it better, and that a legacy of education will serve them more than any other.”

Membership involves no dues or obligations of any kind, and membership information is never shared with other organizations.

The university periodically holds special events for Founding Grant Society members, including luncheons, student performances, and lectures delivered by the university’s top scholars. Members who have given their permission to list their names are also recognized from time to time in Stanford publications. More than 2,000 members have allowed their names to be published in an online honor roll, serving as encouragement to others to become members as well. For those who wish to remain anonymous, the university will honor that request.
Join Us

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY INCLUDED STANFORD IN YOUR ESTATE plans, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is understood by the university, and include you as a member of the Founding Grant Society. To join, please contact us by phone, email, or mail.

Contact Us

STANFORD’S PLANNED GIVING STAFF ARE EXPERTS IN charitable gift planning and are ready to assist you as you explore how to fulfill your philanthropic goals. We are happy to provide you with bequest language to include in your estate plans for the purpose you would like to support at Stanford or to discuss the life income gift arrangements that may be of interest to you. Please contact us for more information.

For more information, please contact:

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