THE POWER OF FINANCIAL PLANNING
IN 2018

When it comes to setting yourself up for financial success, planning is key. With 2018 upon us, now is the perfect time to create a plan and set goals for budgeting, retirement and charitable giving. It’s never too early or too late to begin taking steps toward your personal definition of financial success. I would love to help you get started!

Inside this issue you’ll find financial tips and advice that are relevant to your stage of life, whether you’re a young adult new to the working world, in your 40s or 50s navigating new financial priorities, or quickly approaching retirement age.

I hope that this information will equip you to make smart, confident financial decisions in the new year. When you consider your financial and philanthropic goals for 2018, think about how Wofford fits into the picture.

As always, please contact me if you have questions about gift planning or achieving your charitable giving goals through support of Wofford.

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» Financial resolutions for your phase of life
» Student impact story: Elena Helmers-Wegman ’19
» Making your planned gift count
1. **Evaluate your life insurance needs**
Your need for life insurance changes as your life circumstances do. See below for a baseline of life insurance coverage recommendations:
- If you are **married**, provide your salary for a few years.
- If you are **married and own a house**, provide enough funds to pay off your mortgage for your spouse or heirs.
- If you have **children**, cover living expenses and college education.

2. **Plan and save for retirement**
Consult with a financial advisor about putting a realistic price tag on retirement based upon your lifestyle and financial goals. Here are a few things to keep in mind:
- If you are age 50 or older, you can take advantage of “catch-up” contributions to boost your retirement account savings.
- When it comes to savings, always prioritize retirement. Don’t consider dipping into your retirement for your child’s college or wedding. You can borrow for these things, but not for retirement.
- Consider a Roth IRA if you are at least five years from retiring. Roth accounts are funded with post-tax income, and withdrawals are tax free.

3. **Work with professionals to create a complete estate plan**
Estimates say that 50 to 70 percent of American adults do not have a will. Many people falsely believe that it is only necessary to create a will only if you are wealthy. The truth is that everyone can benefit from having their affairs in order and planning for the unexpected. Consider these tips as you plan your estate:
- Consider creating a trust for your children that allows a gradual distribution of assets rather than a lump sum.

4. **Check beneficiaries regularly**
Beneficiaries for life insurance and retirement assets should be updated regularly (every three to five years), particularly after major life events such as marriage, divorce or having children.

5. **Be smart when saving for your children’s educations**
A 529 plan may provide significant advantages for children and/or grandchildren, even beyond...
educational purposes. A 529 plan is not considered part of your taxable estate, and earnings may be used for qualified education expenses, such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, and computer technology or equipment.

6. **CONSIDER GIFTING HIGHLY APPRECIATED ASSETS FOR TAX SAVINGS**

   If you’re considering a significant charitable contribution this year, gifting appreciated assets, such as stock or property, is the most effective means of tax savings. The benefits are numerous. For example, you support a cause that is important to you, you avoid capital gains taxes and you are eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the asset at the time of the gift.

7. **GET YOUR KEY FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS IN ORDER**

   Put all your important documents in a secure place, such as a safe, and inform someone you trust about their location. Be sure to include your personal identification information, such as your birth certificate, social security card and marriage certificate. Also include a list of your banking and investment accounts (and any online usernames and passwords), insurance information and your original will, power of attorney and healthcare directive. Other documents to keep in mind are your car registration and title as well as home lease or purchase documents.
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IMPACT STORY:

ELENA HELMERS-WEGMAN ’19

The Charles E. Daniel Endowed Scholarship Fund is the reason that Elena Helmers-Wegman ’19 is a student at Wofford. Homozel Mickel Daniel established the Charles E. Daniel Endowed Scholarship Fund in the 1970s at Wofford in memory of her husband, who died in 1964. Mrs. Daniel added $2.5 million to this fund through a bequest in her will. In total, she bequeathed over $13 million to Wofford and more than $55 million to charitable organizations across the state of South Carolina. Charles E. Daniel Scholars are among some of the nation’s finest students, chosen based upon academic merit, character and leadership.

To Helmers-Wegman, her scholarship, which is funded by a planned gift, represents a legacy that she is proud to uphold. “I have been given such a gift, and I am determined to honor the Daniel family by doing everything I can to leave my mark on Wofford and to graduate as a changed, challenged, well-rounded individual who is prepared to take on the world,” she says.

Helmers-Wegman is double majoring in biology and English and is eager to find intersections between the two as she advances in her academic career. She’s also an active leader in Greek life, co-founder of the Gender Equality Committee, a member of the Honor Council, a Wofford Ambassador, an Orientation Staff leader and a small-group leader in the Purple Scarf Society (a professional development group for Wofford women). Helmers-Wegman spent her fall semester in the IES Abroad Writers Program in Dublin, Ireland, exploring her voice, honing her craft and finding inspiration in the city of writers such as Oscar Wilde and James Joyce.

Planned gifts are a crucial source of support for Wofford College. Documenting your bequest by providing details such as the amount and designation of the gift authorizes it to count toward fundraising goals, provides you with recognition in the Benjamin Wofford Society and assists the college’s long-term planning efforts. Keep in mind that documentation does not make your gift binding or irrevocable — you may revise your estate plan if your circumstances or priorities change.

Become a member of the Benjamin Wofford Society today. Fill out and return the enclosed response card or visit wofford.edu/supportwofford/giftplanning.