Planned Giving at Central City Concern

To make a gift of any kind to Central City Concern is an act of tremendous generosity. To make a planned gift—one that can impact the lives of generations to come—is a gift beyond measure. Legacy gifts help ensure that Central City Concern will always have the resources necessary to provide housing, healthcare, and supportive employment services for those in need. They are an enduring demonstration of your transformative belief in the value and dignity of every individual that comes to Central City Concern for help.

The Bing and Carolyn Sheldon Legacy Society

By making a planned gift to Central City Concern, you will be joining others like Bing Sheldon, a founding board member, and his wife, Carolyn, whose planned gift is a lasting legacy that reflects their personal values.

In the early 1960s, Bing and Carolyn were living in Copenhagen, Denmark, where they had moved shortly after Bing had finished his graduate studies at Harvard. After several satisfying years there, they longed to bring what they had learned about creating livable, socially just cities back to the United States. At about that time, Bing learned from a former classmate that Portland was a promising city on the verge of great economic growth. And with little more than that, Bing and Carolyn moved to the Rose City. It was 1964.

Soon after, Bing established SERA Architects. He joined the Portland Planning Commission, which he chaired during the 1970s, a period of tremendous revitalization in downtown Portland. He also helped found Central City Concern.

Carolyn worked for 30 years in Portland Public Schools, focusing primarily on counseling services. She became a sought-after advisor and served as president of the American School Counselor Association. Carolyn later worked at the Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling.

During their early years in Portland, Bing and Carolyn invested in rental properties, which steadily increased in value. As they began preparing for retirement, Bing and Carolyn knew
they wanted to spend more time with their young grandchildren, and less time on rental property maintenance and management. But a significant tax burden loomed if they were to sell their rental properties. Their financial planner had a solution: sell the properties and transfer the proceeds to a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT).

The trust would invest the proceeds with a fund manager. The Sheldons would receive income from a portion of the fund. Upon their deaths, the fund would be liquidated and the proceeds given to four charities of the Sheldons’ choice. Central City Concern is fortunate to be among them. Bing and Carolyn are excited about what the CRT has enabled them to do.

“In the past, you had to make a choice in estate planning: your family or your charities,” Bing says. “Planned giving creates an opportunity for people to realize their highest aspirations, take care of their well-being, and still be able to benefit their favorite non-profits. It’s a win-win.”

Membership in the Bing and Carolyn Sheldon Legacy Society is available to those who make planned gifts to Central City Concern. You can become a member by sharing with us that you have named Central City Concern in your estate plans.

Membership is voluntary and without obligation. It is simply our way of recognizing your remarkable commitment to Central City Concern and the people we serve.

Members of the Bing and Carolyn Sheldon Legacy Society receive invitations to exclusive events, including the “Get to Know the Real Central City Concern” speaker series.

For more information about planned giving, or to notify us of your planned gift so you can be included in the Bing and Carolyn Sheldon Legacy Society, please contact Catharine Hunter at 503-200-3903 or catharine.hunter@ccconcern.org.