



## Leave a Legacy of Fairness and Equality

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Basic Rights Oregon was founded in 1996 to combat a raft of anti-gay ballot measures that sought to dehumanize LGBTQ people in our state. Together during these last two decades we've turned the tide on that hate, and helped make Oregon a place of fairness, equality and compassion. You've supported us as we've become a trusted and influential force, whose priorities help shape the state's landscape. A gift to Basic Rights Oregon in your will helps enshrine your commitment to equality, and ensures that our shared values endure for decades to come.

### **Why Remember Us with a Gift?**

While we've won many landmark victories – such as the passage of the Oregon Equality Act, the freedom to marry, transgender inclusive Medicaid coverage, a ban on youth conversion therapy—we know that our advancements need defending, and that legal equality is not the same as an equal lived experience. That's why we're fighting back efforts to carve out religious exemptions that allow organizations to discriminate against LGBTQ people, investing in statewide engagement to support advocates in every county, community and corner of Oregon, and prioritizing transgender justice and racial justice.

We envision a state where all children, whatever their identity, are recognized as having been “born perfect,” and can pursue the life they want wherever they live, free from homophobia, transphobia and racism.

You've been an important part of our story. Your support has helped transform Oregon into what the Movement Advancement Project has declared the second most LGBTQ-friendly state in the country. As we know from experience, though, it will take determination and resolve to reach our dreams of full equality. A bequest to Basic Rights Oregon in your estate plan, or through beneficiary designation, will help ensure the work we've begun together can continue with the same urgency and passion that have led us to the progress and equality we've celebrated thus far.

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*We were very young when we did our first estate plan. Because there weren't laws that would protect our home, our business and our lives should something happen to either one of us we did our first estate plan in our 20's. We sought legal support to protect ourselves first and then looked to how our*



*estate plan could impact others should something happen to us both. At that time, we knew that protecting our legal rights was going to be an expensive and a long battle. Whether it was through legal fees or through the fight for marriage equality we wanted to be sure that we were able to take care of each other for the long term. And then we wanted to be sure that we could take care of others. That's when we first decided to leave a planned gift to Basic Rights Oregon. — Samantha Swaim & Kristin Steele*

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### **Joining Basic Rights' Legacy Society**

In making a planned gift to Basic Rights Oregon, you'll join others like you, who've chosen to pass on part of their estate to the cause of LGBTQ justice. They are Basic Rights' "Legacy Society."

On our website you'll find sample language for making a bequest to Basic Rights in your estate plan, or designating Basic Rights as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other financial account. Likewise, you'll find tax information regarding our charitable status. We are truly grateful to those who remember us with legacy gifts, and are happy to meet with you to answer any questions, and assist in any way we can.

***For more information, please contact:***

**Mikki Gillette**, Donor Outreach Coordinator  
(503) 222-6151 x141 or [mikki@basicrights.org](mailto:mikki@basicrights.org)