**Sometimes, you will work with a prospective donor who has never seen or even thought about a will. Here is an example of a basic will template with a specific and residual charitable bequest for illustration purposes. This is not legal advice. Donors need to work with a professional advisor in their state to write a will that complies with state law.**

**Will of Debra Donor**

**Part 1. Personal Information**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a resident of the State of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County, declare that this is my will.

**Part 2. Revocation of Previous Wills**

I revoke all wills and codicils that I have previously made.

**Part 3. Executor**

I name Donald Donor to serve as my executor. If Donald Donor is unwilling or unable to serve as executor, I name \_\_\_\_\_to serve as my executor.

**Part 4. Marital Status**

I am married to Donald Donor.

**Part 5. Disposition of Property**

Include your intentions concerning the disposition of tangible personal property or real property here.

**Specific Bequest Language for Devise to Charity**

Naming [ORGANIZATION NAME] as a beneficiary of a specific amount from your estate is easy:

*I give and devise to* [ORGANIZATION NAME]*, located in [CITY], [STATE], the sum of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific affiliate, fund or program).*

**Part 6. Contingent Bequests**

**Contingent Bequest Language**

[ORGANIZATION NAME] or its affiliates can be named as a contingent beneficiary in your will or personal trust if one or more of your specific bequests cannot be fulfilled:

*If (insert name) is not living at the time of my demise, I give and devise to* [ORGANIZATION NAME]*, located in [CITY], [STATE], the sum of $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (or all or a percentage of the residue of my estate) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific affiliate, fund or program).*

**Part 7. Residuary Estate**

My residuary estate is all property I own at my death that is subject to this will that does not pass under a general or specific bequest, including all failed or lapsed requests.

**Residual Bequest Language**

A residual bequest comes to us after your estate expenses and specific bequests are paid:

*I give and devise to* [ORGANIZATION NAME]*, located in [CITY], [STATE], all (or a percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific affiliate, fund or program).*

**Part 8. Executor's Powers**

I direct my executor to take all actions legally permissible to have the probate of my will done as simply and as free of court supervision as possible under the laws of the state having jurisdiction over this will, including filing a petition in the appropriate court for the independent administration of my estate.

**Part 9. Payment of Taxes**

I direct that all estate and inheritance taxes assessed against property in my estate or against my beneficiaries to be paid using the following assets\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 10. Payment of Debts**

Except for liens and encumbrances placed on property as security for the repayment of a loan or debt, I direct that all debts and expenses owed by my estate be paid using the following assets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 11. Severability**

If any provision of this will is held invalid, that shall not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

**SIGNATURE**

I, Debra Donor, the testator, sign my name to this instrument, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I declare that I sign and execute this instrument as my last will, that I sign it willingly, and that I execute it as my free and voluntary act. I declare that I am of the age of majority or otherwise legally empowered to make a will, and under no constraint or undue influence.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESSES**

We, the witnesses, sign our names to this document, and declare that the testator willingly signed and executed this document as the testator's last will.

In the presence of the testator, and in the presence of each other, we sign this will as witnesses to the testator's signing.

To the best of our knowledge, the testator is of the age of majority or otherwise legally empowered to make a will, is of sound mind and under no constraint or undue influence. We declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***First Witness***

Sign your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Second Witness***

Sign your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by Camilyn K. Leone, Esq.