

Leave A Legacy ensures that generosity lives on

Americans are generous. Professional fund-raisers report that about 70 percent of us give to charities, and that amounts to about \$150 billion a year. But before we die, only about 5 percent range to leave donations from our estates. Maybe we just don't like to think we're going to die, or maybe we think it would be a hassle to arrange a bequest.

The Leave A Legacy initiative is a national grass-roots effort to change that sort of thinking.

"Anyone can leave a legacy," said **Millie Wood-Goldsby**, who is working with the Leave A Legacy effort on the Treasure Coast. "It can be as little as \$100 a year to



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help a nonprofit or something as simple as a musical instrument."

In March, **Suzanne Horstman**, executive director of the Library Foundation of Martin County, introduced the Leave A Legacy initiative to the Martin County and City of Stuart commissioners.

Now **James Campo**, a certified financial planner who grew up in Martin County, is president of

the Treasure Coast Planned Giving Council and is heading the program to raise awareness about Leave A Legacy. Approximately 30 local charities and nonprofit organizations are partners in the initiative.

"The directors of development for the not-for-profits will work with their donors to find out what their values are and what they want to pass on," Campo said.

Everyone is put off by "red tape," so they will also help guide the process, he said.

Two Martin County residents have already left a legacy and have been honored at National

Philanthropy Day ceremonies by the council and the Treasure Coast chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.



Mr. Kordick

Last year **Joseph Kordick**, who died in 2001 at age 69, was recognized for his bequest to the United Way's Character Count ethics program, which he helped establish. His donation provides cash awards to students annually for being role models in their communities.

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Legacies that keep on giving

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Kordick, a former vice president of the Ford Motor Co., was also a former president of the board of directors for Hospice of Martin & St. Lucie, a Hospice caregiver and president of the United Way of Martin County board.

In 2001 **Myra Schroeder**, who taught at Parker Elementary School in Stuart for more than 20 years, was recognized for leaving a legacy for scholarships for dyslexic children. Schroeder died in 1995, but her donation, administered by the Community Foundation of Palm Beach County and Martin County, continues to help 12 children every year.

To help the Leave a Legacy effort grow, a speaker's bureau has been organized. If you or your group would like information on it, call **Doyle Richardson** at 288-0000

or **James Campo** at 286-0330. For more information about Leave A Legacy, see www.leavealegacy.org.

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