What is left behind after the action of a lifetime? We think of our legacy in many ways—our life’s work, our descendants or maybe our written words. Your legacy can also be an investment in the mission of Rochester College—helping us carry on programs important to you.

Why are endowments important? An endowment creates financial stability, allowing colleges to be less dependent on unpredictable sources of revenue such as annual gifts, state or federal appropriations, and enrollment increases. The resources produced by endowment funds can support a wide variety of activities, including scholarships, professorships for distinguished and dedicated faculty, or academic initiatives that enhance an institution’s ability to be a leader in higher education.

Endowment funds are invested, or are available for investment, to produce revenue. The revenue from these investments is available for scholarships, faculty positions and educational initiatives. The principal for these funds is protected, thus ensuring that the fund sustains itself in perpetuity. A strong endowment allows a college to focus on the business of educating students, instead of raising money to cover annual operating expenses.

Who will oversee my endowment? Rochester College has several entities available to oversee your endowment gift: Rochester College Foundation, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan and the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester. Each entity has its own board and investment committees who have legal fiduciary responsibility for overseeing endowments. Endowment funds are invested to ensure a healthy and safe return with distributions being made to the college each year. The college also accepts and manages endowment funds directly, providing greater flexibility for college administrators.

Donors can specify if they want their endowment funds to be restricted or unrestricted. Restricted funds are donor directed as to how the proceeds can be used. An example might be a scholarship for students going into ministry. Income from unrestricted funds is disbursed annually and allows the college administration to direct income toward areas of greatest need (e.g., the funding of a new faculty position).

To ensure we continue educating students to be salt and light, we need your help. Endowment funds provide one of the most secure sources of revenue to Rochester College. Come join us as we endeavor to secure the future for the mission for Rochester College. Join our endowment family of donors. Help us safeguard a bright future for Rochester College.