

At the Spartanburg County Foundation, what you care about matters to us. You're busy - building families and businesses, volunteering, and making a difference in the lives of others. Women face unique longevity considerations that impact long-term financial decision-making. Today, we have brought together local experts in estate planning and wealth management to help you shape the future you want – creating the lasting legacy you wish to leave behind and protect the people and causes you care about most.



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What are the key steps to achieving your financial goals?



Notes:



THE STARTING POINT

Why the Math Is Different for Women

81.4 vs. 76.5

Years of U.S. life expectancy — women outlive men by roughly five years, and far longer in many households.

95%

Of the \$54 trillion passing to surviving spouses in the great wealth transfer goes to women.

32%

Of American adults have a will — meaning most plans default to the state, not to intention.

Sources: CDC 2024; Cerulli / Bank of America Institute, 2025; Caring.com 2024.

Notes:

LIVING LONGER

The Long Horizon Changes Everything

Age 59

MEDIAN AGE OF WIDOWHOOD

Many women make decades of financial decisions alone — often while grieving.

3.7 years

AVERAGE LONG-TERM CARE NEED

Women need care about 70% longer than men, and more often pay for it.

The last decision-maker

INCAPACITY, NOT JUST DEATH

The plan must work while you are alive but unable to act — that is the gap most documents miss.

A longer life means more years of inflation, more health costs, and more chances the plan gets tested.



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Notes:

Estate goals

- Asset transfer
- Incapacity protection
- Guardian for minors or dependents
- Charitable intent
- Tax planning
- Business succession





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Notes:

THE FOUNDATION

The Four Documents Every Plan Needs

Last will and testament

Names who settles your affairs, appoints guardians for anyone in your care, and catches whatever never made it into the trust.

Health care power of attorney

Names who speaks for your medical care if you cannot — paired with a living will that records your treatment wishes.

Revocable living trust

Holds and directs your assets during life and after — privately, and without sending your family through probate.

Financial power of attorney

Lets someone you trust pay bills, manage accounts, and sign on your behalf while you are living but unable to act.

Four documents, one plan — each closes a gap the others cannot reach.

Educational information only — not legal or tax advice.

Notes:

Do you or your family know what you own?



- Investments
- Bank accounts
- Retirement accounts
- Insurance policies
- Pension
- Property



Notes:

One form can override your will - Beneficiary

Accounts that designate a beneficiary are not controlled by a will or trust

Ensure current information on all:

- Life insurance policies and annuities
- Retirement accounts
- Other investment and banking accounts

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What is a trust?



A legal arrangement in which an individual gives control of property to a person or institution (the trustee) for the benefit of designated individuals or organizations (the beneficiaries)



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What can a trust do?



- Provide for a child with special needs
- Restrict inheritances
- Provide tax benefits



Notes:

Role of a trustee

Establish and implement an investment strategy for the trust's assets

Record keeping and providing accountings to beneficiaries

Pay trust expenses

Make distributions to beneficiaries according to the terms of the trust



Notes:

THE CORE TOOL

Why a Revocable Trust Belongs in the Plan

Continuity if you cannot act

A successor trustee steps in immediately on incapacity — no court, no guardianship, no waiting.

Blended and second families

Provide for a spouse for life while protecting what ultimately passes to your own children.

Privacy for your family

Probate is a public record. A trust keeps your assets, beneficiaries, and intentions out of public view.

Protection for the people you love

Stage distributions over time and shield an heir's inheritance from creditors, divorce, or inexperience.

A will speaks only after death. A trust works during the years you may need it most.

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Notes:

Notes:

CHOOSING WHO SERVES

Why Name a Corporate Trustee or Representative

It does not die

CONTINUITY AND PERMANENCE

A bank or trust company outlives anyone you could name, and never moves away, falls ill, or steps down.

No family in the middle

IMPARTIALITY

A neutral party follows the document, not the loudest voice — and keeps siblings out of conflict.

It is their day job

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Recordkeeping, tax filings, investments, and distributions handled by a regulated, insured team.

A corporate fiduciary brings the discipline; a family co-trustee alongside keeps the personal judgment.



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CHARITABLE INTENT

Giving That Outlives You

Women-headed households give about 19% more to charity than comparable households headed by men.

- Donor-advised fund**
Give now, choose the causes later — often with your family.
- Charitable remainder trust**
Income to you for life; what remains goes to charity.
- Charitable lead trust**
Support a cause for a term, then assets pass to your heirs.
- Beneficiary and IRA gifts**
An IRA is often the most tax-efficient asset to give.

Source: Woman's Philanthropy Institute, Woman Give.

Notes:

WHERE TO BEGIN

The Six Conversations Your Family Will Thank You For

01
Know what you own
List every account, deed, and policy — and who is named on each.

02
Check the beneficiaries
Designations override your will. Most outdated plans fail right here.

03
Name your decision-makers
Trustee, agent under power of attorney, health care proxy. Name a backup for each.

04
Fund the trust
A trust only protects what is actually moved into it. Retitle the accounts and the deed.

05
Plan for care, not just death
Decide how a long care need gets paid for before it arrives.

06
Put your giving in writing
Let the foundation help you structure a gift that reflects what you care about.

Educational information only — not legal or tax advice.

Notes:
