



# GREENLEGACY

Spring 2020

## An Activist with a Heart for our Oceans

*One moment with a whale can change a human life forever*

By Paula Trehearne

I discovered a love for the water while spending my childhood summers swimming and fishing at Lake Geneva, WI. During the winter, I played in the Atlantic Ocean on Florida vacations.

But considering my background and upbringing, this love for the water was not something anyone would have expected. I grew up in the Chicago area in the 1940s and 50s. My mother was a fashion model for Marshall Fields and my father was an accountant. Most of my childhood years were filled with drama, ballet, and art lessons. Later as a young adult, I studied and earned degrees in Advertising Design and Art Education, and I eventually spent my career working as an interior decorator.

So it was in the early 90s, after traveling to many of the world's islands for scuba diving and snorkeling and experiencing the wonders of the underwater world, I became aware of how important the oceans, rivers, and lakes were to our survival on Earth. Then, an experience in the Pacific Ocean, in Baja, Mexico, changed my life forever.

While in Magdalena Bay, Mexico, I went to see the Alaskan whales that during the winter months come to the area and breach. The baby whales were curious and



*Paula Trehearne is proud to include Greenpeace in her will*

came over to our boat while their mothers watched attentively from a distance. One whale in particular kept eye contact with me during this entire time, giving me a loving feeling that was unforgettable. It was then that I knew that we are all connected to everything on this planet, and that it is up to us to be protective guardians of this unbelievable world.

As the years passed, I became more and more aware of how the environment was being affected by the destruction of our natural resources on this Earth. We are filling our waters with plastics,

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A grey whale breaches in Laguna San Ignacio, Mexico.

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An Agami Heron hunts in the morning at the low lands of Costa Rica.

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## An Activist with a Heart for our Oceans (cont.)

bottles, cans, and discarded fishing gear. Because of our actions, coral reefs are dying, ocean waters are warming, affecting the food supply, and causing changes in many animal migrations. The process of fracking leaks oil and contaminated fracking fluids into our soil and water tables negatively affecting our environment.

Finally, I had to do something more! I've spent my life volunteering and giving. I feel it is important to give back to society and to help others. So, I decided to include Greenpeace in my will. I feel that Greenpeace is one of the most active and effective environmental organizations today. They fight to get the message across, for the planet and for those of us that physically can't; and it's working! I think about the good I will be doing by including Greenpeace in my will. The work will carry on.



*A Kemp's Ridley turtle nests on the beach in Rancho Nuevo, near Tampico, Mexico.*

*This article was edited by Andrea Kebrdle, Greenpeace USA Planned Giving Officer, and Rogelio Ocampo, Greenpeace USA Planned Giving Associate.*

## FreeWill Collaborates with Greenpeace Fund

*How the SECURE Act affects your opportunity to make gifts from your IRA*

### **Attention donors 70 and older:**

Greenpeace Fund is here for you. We are living in unprecedented times, and we want to thank you for the personal and financial investments you've made with us over the years. Because of your ongoing support, we want to share some important information about your IRA distributions as a result of the recent SECURE ACT, and we want you to be prepared.

All donors 70 ½ and older are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their IRA to the Greenpeace Fund. These gifts are tax-free, whether or not you itemize deductions on your tax return. You can **use our new tool to make your gift online today by visiting [FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund](https://FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund)**

If you were born before June 30, 1949, you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA each year, or you will incur a hefty tax penalty. If you were born after this date, you will not have to take an RMD until you turn 72.

In addition, the Stretch IRA rule has been eliminated, meaning your IRA beneficiary **must** deplete the IRA within ten years. If your IRA beneficiary is a family member or friend, this becomes a significant tax burden. But if the beneficiary is a charity, the gift is completely tax-free, meaning the full amount of your IRA will go towards the Greenpeace Fund. You are also able to add additional funds to your IRA of up to \$7,000 after you turn 70 ½.

Make sure to start sooner rather than later, since these QCD gifts must be completed by December 31st, 2020. If you have additional questions about how these recent changes will affect your taxes, we recommend reaching out to a tax advisor.

**Visit [FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund](https://FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund) to make your gift today.**

Greenpeace Fund is proud to share resources and information to educate all of our donors about tax-beneficial ways to give. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your IRA and Greenpeace Fund in light of the current situation, please do not hesitate to reach out.

# Leave a Lasting Legacy

## Tax Deductible Giving

Greenpeace Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions to Greenpeace Fund are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under tax laws.

Legal Name and Address: **Greenpeace Fund, Inc.**  
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20001

Federal Tax ID Number: 95-3313195

For questions or more information, please contact Corrine Barr at 1-800-328-0678, [corrine.barr@greenpeace.org](mailto:corrine.barr@greenpeace.org) or see our website at [greenpeacefund.org](http://greenpeacefund.org).

## Don't Let the IRS Tax Your IRA

*By Corrine Barr*

As you may know, the new tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction while eliminating or reducing many itemized deductions. The good news is, unlike most charitable gifts where the tax benefit depends on being able to itemize deductions, a charitable IRA rollover offers the same tax benefits whether or not you itemize. Best of all, donations from your IRA “count” toward your required minimum distribution — great news if you don’t need your IRA for income right now, but are forced to take it because of your age.

Important things to keep in mind:

- Individuals must be at least age 70½ on the date of the gift.
- Gifts can come only from IRAs, not 401(k) s or other retirement accounts.
- A maximum of \$100,000 may be given annually.
- The transfer must come directly from the IRA custodian.
- Can be made only to public charities like Greenpeace Fund, not to private foundations or donor advised funds.

If you are able to write checks from your IRA account, it’s important to mail those at least several weeks before the end of the year in order to qualify for the charitable distribution. Unlike other checks for charitable gifts, the date of the gift for IRA donations is when the funds are actually transferred by your IRA administrator not the date of the postmark when you mail the check.

Would you like to make a gift to Greenpeace in your will? Please contact me for details! Or check out our new FreeWill service for an easy way to create your legacy for the future of the planet.

*Corrine Barr is Director of Gift Planning.*

*Provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal, accounting, or other professional advice.*

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*A sea otter recovers at a rehabilitation center after being caught in an oil spill.*

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A mesophotic coral reef, like this one pictured in the Amazon reef, is characterized by the presence of both light dependent coral and algae, and organisms that can be found in water with low light penetration.