Family Wealth Stewardship

BESSEMER TRUST

At a Glance

Successfully preparing the next generation to receive your family's wealth is about more than having the right wealth transfer documents.

A shared family vision, communication and trust, and adequately educating the next generation are essential to sustaining family wealth and well-being across generations.

Bessemer's family wealth stewardship specialists can help you craft and implement a plan that helps you realize your goals for your family today and for future generations.

Creating Good Stewards

We all want our youngest family members — our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other loved ones — to lead fulfilling and productive lives. If we have substantial wealth, we want them to become good stewards of that wealth. We want our wealth to help — not hinder — them in becoming responsible adults and achieving their goals.

It's not always easy. Understandably concerned about the possibility of wealth causing children to limit their own potential, parents and other family members tend to avoid discussing family finances with the younger generations. In our experience, encouraging communication about the family's wealth and the intent for its use is often empowering for children and can bring families closer together.

With programs that focus on educating the next generation, bringing families together to foster communication, and building effective family governance structures, our family wealth stewardship specialists can help you and your family to develop a shared vision for your wealth, addressing your needs today and, hopefully, for generations to come.

Preparing the Next Generation: Our Approach

Start Early

We take a long-term, incremental approach to next gen education, starting early with age-appropriate educational experiences.

Match the Approach to the Child

We achieve the most successful outcomes when we match our teaching strategy to the student's learning style and interest level.

Foster Stewardship

We work with students to develop financial literacy as well as negotiating, conflict-resolution, and other skills that encourage a stewardship mindset.

Anticipate Just-in-Time Educational Opportunities

Particularly when it comes to personal finance, the most successful learning occurs when the student has an immediate real-world need for the knowledge.

Customize the Curriculum

We customize, refine, and evolve curriculums based on each family's values, wealth structures, and feedback from the next generation, often leveraging technology to make the learning engaging and easily accessible.

Preparing the Next Generation

We take a building-block approach to next-gen education, often beginning with children in middle school and extending into their 30s, gradually increasing their knowledge of personal finance, investments, and wealth management with age-appropriate activities.

Our programs are flexible, enabling our client advisors to craft a customized approach that meets your children's specific needs — in terms of content and sophistication — and incorporates your values around wealth and stewardship. While this learning can be formalized, it can also address immediate issues — such as the decision to rent or buy a home or to lease or buy a car.

Our programs emphasize interactive, hands-on, educational activities. We also use virtual classrooms and online videos to leverage the visual and experiential learning styles of younger generations and make it easier for busy clients to engage with our programs.

In addition, we host an annual next-generation workshop, which features peer-to-peer meetings where commonly shared issues of wealth, family, and investments are discussed in an intimate, safe-haven environment. Recent workshops have explored sustainable investing, prenuptial agreements, and nonprofit board leadership.

Perhaps most important, we rely on direct and ongoing client feedback to ensure that our programs are always evolving and relevant — in terms of the subjects we address and the ways that we deliver them.

Multigenerational Communication and Decision-Making

When it's appropriate, we can design and facilitate family meetings to help you share with loved ones the intent for your wealth and the accompanying trust and investment structures. We guide discussions about your family's history and values and help you prepare a mission statement to unite family members across several generations.

We also help you explore the complexities that tend to occur when wealth transfers from generation to generation.

Finally, when there are multiple stakeholders (for example, in the case of shared interests in a family business or investment vehicle), we can work with you to build governance structures to formalize decision-making and procedures for resolving conflict.

The Bessemer Difference

More than 100 years ago, Henry Phipps founded Bessemer Trust with the principle of stewardship in mind. He wanted his children to grow up to be productive adults and responsible stewards of the family wealth that would eventually pass to future generations.

Today, that principle of stewardship continues to guide us in everything that we do for our clients and their families, including the seventh generation of Bessemer's founding family.

Having worked closely with families of substantial wealth over many decades and across multiple generations, we understand the personal and financial challenges that can accompany significant wealth — and we have developed effective strategies and tools for addressing them.

Our team can work with you and your family to develop and implement a plan that meets your specific needs and helps you realize your aspirations for your family today and for generations to come.

To learn more about Bessemer's approach to family wealth stewardship and any of our other offerings, please contact your client service team or your local Bessemer Trust office.