What your Last Will and Testament says about your legacy...

If you have been engaged in the estate planning process and have had a Last Will and Testament drafted, it will appear very similar to an autobiographical sketch of who and what is important to you. We usually refer to a Last Will and Testament simply as a "will." Through this document you are legally exercising your personal will. It is your statement about who you are, what you want done, and about whom you care. And now the very important word so seldom referred to when referencing the document: "Testament." Merriam Webster defines "testament" as "an expression of conviction" and a "tribute."Your Last Will and Testament serves as a tribute to who you were in life and what was most dear to you. It is a sign to all those who read it that reveals what you valued – the people and the organizations – that were most important in your life. Your testament becomes your legacy.

There can be no more powerful legacy that you can leave than to consider the health and wellbeing of your family, friends and neighbors in the community. Legacy gifts to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center serve as that testament to the life you lived and to the ideals you valued. To leave your legacy to St. Joseph's we suggest the following language: I hereby give, devise, and bequeath the sum of $_____[or__percent of my residuary estate or specific asset] to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center Foundation, located in Paterson, NJ, for its general charitable purposes. Once you have written the Last Will and Testament you can confidently say that you have put into writing who you are and what you want to be remembered for: the goal of a stellar autobiography.