

pur·pose

"Purpose," one of those words so basic that it's hard to define without using the word itself, is the first of the Donaghue Foundation's stated values. Perhaps the best definition is simply "the end to be attained." For Donaghue, it's also "our reason for being." An organization's purpose is sometimes confused with its mission, but the two can be distinguished if one thinks of purpose as the destination and mission as the road selected for the trip. The Donaghue Trustees make frequent reference to the Purpose Clause in the will of Ethel Donaghue, because it states her testamentary mandate for the Foundation. Our mission as Trustees is to devise and execute ways to best serve Miss Donaghue's purpose — or, one could say, routes to take in our journey. We can — and should — change our mission as road conditions warrant (and also change the specifics of it, as the feature article illustrates), but we cannot alter the purpose set down indelibly by Miss Donaghue. ▢

