

policy by assigning all rights and benefits to a charitable organization.

You might also wish to make a gift of a new policy to charity. This can be an easy way to make a larger gift on an installment plan.

Other Accounts: In most states, similar beneficiary arrangements are available for various brokerage, financial and bank accounts.

Your Long-Range Plans: You may enjoy the privilege, as many others do, of arranging gifts to valued charities after providing for loved ones. Charitable gifts can be made in your will or living trust. Be sure to use the full legal name of any organization remembered in this way. We would be honored to be part of your legacy.

SPECIAL GIVING OPTIONS

Do not forget other “pockets” you may use to maximize your gifts. Thousands of companies match charitable gifts. Some will match gifts dollar for dollar or at an even higher rate, perhaps 2:1 or 3:1, up to a certain level. If you own a business, you may also give through that entity.

Some families have created foundations as tools to further their philanthropic objectives and perpetuate family values. Additionally, donor advised funds (DAFs) created by community foundations, charitable organizations and other sponsors have become an attractive alternative to family foundations to facilitate gifts. For example, a

donor would like to make gifts to five charitable organizations this year using company stock. Instead of making five separate wire transfers, the donor makes a single gift to a DAF (maintained as a qualified charity) and then requests various charitable gifts be made.

The year-end giving season is the most generous time of the year. We hope this information will help you choose the best ways to fulfill your philanthropic plans for 2017.



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Americans are among the most generous people in the world. Charitable gifts in 2016 totaled more than \$390 billion—an all-time record! Last year, 80% of that total came from individuals or their estates and the remainder came from corporate and foundation gifts.

It's no secret that a large percentage of charitable gifts are made during the final three months of the year, with the most occurring between Thanksgiving and December 31. This guide will explore some ideas to help you make the most of your gifts this year.

CASH OR NONCASH GIFTS?

Gifts of cash are popular and convenient as they may be made in person, online or by mail. They can be in the form of cash, check, credit card or electronic transfer. For tax purposes, complete your cash gifts before December 31 and save all receipts and acknowledgments.

Each year, billions of dollars of gifts other than cash are received by charities too. Gifts of stock and other publicly traded securities, such as mutual funds, lead the way. These gifts are also easy to complete and are usually made electronically from the donor's account to the charity's account. In some cases, stock certificates may be mailed or delivered to the charity or its representative. Please contact us if you are considering a gift of securities or have any questions.

Other property such as art, collectibles and other valuable assets may be given. Special rules apply to these types of gifts and the IRS requires an appraisal for gifts greater than \$5,000. Please check with us or your advisors for more information.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Retirement Plans: Most adults participate in one or more retirement plans such as a 401(k), Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or 403(b). Funds you do not need may be a source for current or future charitable gifts.

Those age 70½ and older with an IRA may make charitable distributions directly to qualified charities of up to \$100,000 per year on a tax-free basis. A couple that each has an IRA may direct up to \$200,000 in gifts per year in this manner. Charitable IRA gifts bypass taxes and also count towards your minimum required distribution.

You can also arrange a future gift by naming a charity as beneficiary of a retirement plan. You and your family can enjoy use of the assets and designate charities to receive any remaining funds in the future.

Insurance Policies: Many people have life insurance policies that were taken out years ago for a specific purpose but are no longer needed today. In those instances, you may appoint a charity as beneficiary of an existing policy or you may decide to make a gift of the

GIVING REMINDERS FOR 2017

- Complete your gifts by December 31 to enjoy tax savings for 2017.
- Keep all receipts and acknowledgments for tax purposes.
- Giving stock or certain other property that has increased in value may provide greater tax savings than cash.
- Gifts through wills, trusts, insurance policies, retirement plans and other long-range financial plans can all be ways to support your charitable interests.
- If you are 70½ and older, charitable gifts from your IRA may be advisable.
- Consider gifts through your donor advised fund, foundation, corporation or other business where applicable.
- Don't forget "matching gifts" from your employer.
- Ask your advisors which methods of giving are best for you.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated. We will be pleased to assist you and your advisors as you plan to fulfill your charitable goals for 2017.

