

Gift Planning Quick Guide



Gift

How and Why

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

Cash	Write a check or use a credit card. Easy to make; qualifies for an income tax charitable deduction for full amount of gift.
Securities	Typically, transfer to charity an appreciated asset (stocks, bonds) held for more than one year. Qualifies for an income tax charitable deduction for full fair market value; no capital gains tax payable on asset's appreciated value.
Closely Held Stock	Business owner gives stock to charity, then corporation may repurchase same stock in an arm's length transaction. The fair market value of the stock qualifies for a charitable deduction; no capital gains tax.
Tangible Personal Property	Donate property to charity. Income tax charitable deduction for full fair market value if gift property used by charity for its exempt purposes (otherwise, deduction limited to adjusted cost basis). Qualified appraisals often necessary.

LIFE INCOME PLANS

Charitable Gift Annuity	Assets (usually cash or securities) donated to charity in exchange for fixed annuity payments. The gift portion of the donation qualifies for an income tax charitable deduction; part of payments may be tax-free return of principal; capital gains tax on the transfer is spread over the donor's life expectancy if donor is the annuitant.
Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT)	Set up trust that pays specific annual benefit for life of beneficiary(ies), or for a period up to 20 years; trust property transferred to charity when benefits end; usually funded with cash or securities. Qualifies for an income tax charitable deduction; possibly bypasses capital gains tax when funded with long-term appreciated property.
Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)	Similar to CRAT, except income amount varies each year as trust assets are revalued; may be funded with cash, securities, and other assets. Same benefits as CRAT. Different funding and payout options (unlike a CRAT).

REVOCALE GIFTS

Bequest	Use a will to direct property to a charity at death. Estate tax charitable deduction for the value of the gift; the donor retains lifetime use and control of property intended as a bequest.
Revocable Living Trust	Set up a trust that directs the disposition of assets, including gifts to charity; the trust can be revoked or changed. Minimizes costs and delays of probate; facilitates transfer of assets; plan is private, not public (unlike a will); continuity of asset management in the event of death or disability.
Retirement Plan Assets	Charity named as beneficiary of retirement plan assets (other arrangements also possible). This may have estate planning benefits, because income in respect of a decedent (IRD) is taxable to heirs but not to charities.

OTHER GIFTS

IRA Gift

IRA owners 70½ or over order a transfer from the IRA directly to our organization. Money directed to a qualified charity is excluded from the donor's gross income for federal tax purposes (up to \$105,000 in 2024), but counts towards the donor's annual required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due.

IRA owners 70½ or over make an IRA distribution to create a new charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. With this new one-time option, the tax-free distribution (up to \$53,000 in 2024) counts toward the donor's RMD.

Donor-Advised Fund

The donor makes an irrevocable contribution to a restricted fund maintained by a charitable organization. The full amount of the gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction; the donor may advise regarding fund distribution, but may not place material restrictions on the fund.

Retained Life Estate

A form of real estate gift in which the donor retains the right to live in the property for life. Qualifies for an income tax charitable deduction based on the present value of the remainder interest that will eventually go to charity.

Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)

Charity receives annual trust income; trust principal reverts to donor or beneficiaries at end of trust term. Qualified CLT may qualify for a gift tax or estate tax charitable deduction or for an income tax charitable deduction, depending on type of CLT.

Life Insurance

Give a life insurance policy to charity, or designate a charity as beneficiary of the policy, or use a policy as a wealth replacement tool in tandem with a CRAT or CRUT. Possible income tax charitable deduction for the donated policy.