

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A DOZEN WAYS TO GIVE

- 1. Review your investment portfolio.** Give gains by transferring appreciated securities to your favorite charity. Losses? Use them yourself and give cash for a charitable deduction.
- 2. Review your will.** Add charitable beneficiaries. Designate a dollar amount, a gift of a specific item, or a percentage of the estate. Name your favorite charity as a “contingent beneficiary” if all of your near ones and dear ones are gone and cannot receive the gifts you intend for them.
- 3. Review other documents.** Remember you can make gifts by means of a revocable living trust, or name a charitable beneficiary on an annuity or a “pay on death” (POD) account.
- 4. Share your IRA.** If you are over 70½, you can direct all or part of your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to a charity. It won't be income to you, so it works for those who don't itemize. If you name a charity as the beneficiary of an IRA when you die, the charity pays no income tax and your estate gets a charitable deduction. Rules change, so check with your advisors on how to do it.
- 5. Create a Charitable Remainder Trust.** A Charitable Remainder Trust can help you diversify your portfolio, deal with an awkward asset, defer capital gains, and provide an income stream. You get income tax benefits now and reduce your estate tax liability.
- 6. Create a Charitable Lead Trust.** A Charitable Lead Trust lets you give to charity now and ultimately pass assets to your loved ones at reduced transfer tax cost.
- 7. Review your insurance.** You could name a charitable beneficiary on existing policies (including those from your employer), or buy a new policy to create a charitable gift.
- 8. Make giving a family affair.** Make a gift and invite family members to join you. Follow it up with more gifts at your death...from you and from family members in your memory.
- 9. Endow your annual gift.** Suppose you give \$1,000 to your favorite charity each year. Who will give it when you are gone? Make a gift of \$20,000 through your estate plan. Interest at 5% will replace your annual gift in perpetuity.
- 10. Put your house to work.** Give your house to charity with a retained life estate to get a current income tax deduction and remove the asset from your estate, or give it to charity at your death to get an estate tax deduction.
- 11. Memorial Donations.** Tell your relatives and friends where you would like donations made in your memory when you die. These gifts will last longer than a floral arrangement!
- 12. Be an active board member.** If you are on the board of a charity, set an example. Nothing speaks louder to potential donors and grant makers than knowing that every board member has included a charity in his or her estate plan.

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