

Chapter 18

Philanthropy and Planned Giving

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18-1. About Philanthropy

Throughout life, you may have been asked to make donations to individuals or charities, and, after considerable discerning thought, may have given to those to which you felt a connection. However, now in the “golden years,” you may be asked to consider a different type of gift: your legacy. What can you leave the next generation? This question may not be as difficult to answer as: *How* will you leave your gift to the next generation? The decision about “how” to leave a legacy gift may seem more complex at first glance. After all, financial gifts given throughout your lifetime probably came from your income, but now you are making a decision about giving from your accumulated wealth. This chapter is designed to provide some insight into philanthropy as an activity and as a philosophy, help you find information about your favorite charity, and provide you with options with which to plan your gift.

One of the best essays written on the topic of deciding how one should engage in appropriate philanthropy comes from the book, *Philanthropy: Voluntary Action for the Public Good*, by Robert L. Payton. It is an essay on friendship, charity, the human condition, and the methods and values of science and morals. Payton’s reflections on reason and emotion in philanthropy are inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s famous letter to Maria Cosway entitled,

"A Dialogue Between My Head and My Heart," in which Jefferson theorizes that common sense and emotion can often be at odds as we consider charitable intent and acts. Payton postulates that even today, we all have conflicts in deciding how and when and to whom to give — conversations between our Head and our Heart. What gift makes sense in today's world, where homelessness, famine, and constant human needs are worldwide and ever-present? Will my gift make a difference? Can I be sure that my gift will be used appropriately? We present a part of the essay here to stimulate your thoughts about how to evaluate the question of determining your giving nature.

From Payton's essay:

Beyond friendship, in our less personal relations in society at large, Jefferson counsels against the misleading influence of narrow self interest. The Head leads us astray when it intrudes in the affairs of the Heart. He illustrates his theme with the example of a weary soldier seeking a lift on the back of Jefferson's carriage. Jefferson's self interest advises against it: His Head argues that there will be other soldiers further on; eventually we'll put too much of a burden on the horses. Jefferson rides on, but his conscience gets the better of him: It may not be possible to help everyone, his Heart pleads, but we ought to help those we can. The logic of compassion wins out, but too late, because when Jefferson turns back to find the soldier, the soldier has taken another road.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University describes philanthropy in a less complex way:

It's a powerful feeling, helping others.

You've felt it: The "warm glow" that comes when you do something good for someone else.

You feel it every time you give money to a cause you believe in. But it radiates just as strongly when you volunteer at a community event, participate in a service club, take food to a sick neighbor, or help out a friend.

This feeling is an expression of your concern for others rather than yourself. Of wanting to help fill a need, solve a problem, make life better for someone else. In short, of wanting to take action, voluntarily, for the public good.

This is philanthropy.

Philanthropy is personal and private. Everyone will have a different philosophy and follow his or her own Heart or Head, or both. We hope you enjoy the journey as you come to a decision regarding your own charitable path.

18-2. What Are Planned Gifts?

Planned gifts are a variety of charitable giving methods that allow donors to express their personal values by integrating charitable, family, and financial goals. Making a planned, charitable gift usually requires the assistance of a knowledgeable advisor such as an attorney, financial planner, or CPA to help structure the gift. Planned gifts can be made with cash, but many planned gifts are made by donating assets such as stocks, real estate, insurance, or business interests — the possibilities are endless. Planned gifts can provide valuable tax benefits and/or lifetime income for donors, spouses, or other loved ones. The most frequently made planned gifts are bequests to charities, made through wills. Other popular planned gifts include charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities.

The advantages of planned gifts are many, but some of the more popular reasons for establishing this type of gift are:

- 1) Providing a life income to the donor;
- 2) Removing assets from one's estate to lessen the estate tax burden;
- 3) Avoiding or mitigating capital gains taxes by gifting appreciated, long-held property;
- 4) Receiving a charitable tax deduction;
- 5) Turning low or non-income-producing assets into higher income payouts;
- 6) Fulfilling one's charitable intent by supporting a favorite charity; and
- 7) Providing a charitable gift, receiving tax benefits, *and* also maintaining control of the asset during one's lifetime.

18-3. Types of Planned Gifts and the Advantages to the Donor

Bequests

The basic, easiest, and most popular planned gift is a bequest. Experts say that nearly 80 percent of all planned gifts to charities are in the form of a will provision or a bequest. A charitable bequest is a provision in your will that designates a charity as a beneficiary. Bequests can either be specific (leaving a certain asset or a set sum of money to the charity) or general (leaving a percentage of your estate to the charity). Most charities will help you with the bequest language you'll want to use in your will. It is important to include enough information in the bequest so that your estate administrator will know to which charity or charities you want your gift directed.

The greatest advantage to leaving a bequest to charity is that you, the donor, maintain control over your assets until your death. For this reason, charities consider bequests to be *revocable* or incomplete in nature — that is, the gift is not absolute. If the estate's assets cannot support payment of the bequest to a charity, there is no legal obligation on the part

of the estate to make payment. Or, the donor can change his or her beneficiaries during their lifetime and can remove a charity (or any other beneficiary) from his or her will. As in all other types of planned gifts, a bequest can be designated to be used for any purpose that the donor wishes, so long as the gift is not to be used for any intention that is in violation of the law. If you have a particular use to which you would like your bequest directed, the charity will be most pleased if the terms of your intentions are set forth specifically in your will provision. Without such specific language, the charity may not be able to fully realize your plans — and the charity will want to use your gift in the way that you intended. If acceptable to you, all charities would appreciate the opportunity to know of your bequest provision and charitable intentions while you are still living; you could send them the entire will or simply the pages with their particular gift noted thereon. It would be up to you, of course, if you wanted to be publicly thanked and recognized for your future gift by the charity, or you could remain anonymous if that is more comfortable for you.

Retirement Plan Gifts

Another way to provide a planned gift to a charity is to include your favorite non-profit organization in your retirement plan documents. You can designate a charity as a beneficiary of your individual retirement account (IRA), 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan. In many regards, if a person is charitably inclined, it is preferable to fund such gift with this type of asset because the proceeds from these accounts are, at death, considered income in respect of a decedent (IRD). This tax law concept is generally defined as taxable income earned but not received prior to death. No matter who the beneficiary is, the income, when received, will be taxed to the beneficiary as it would have been taxed to the decedent. Generally, inherited property is not included in an heir's taxable income, but if a family member receives an IRD asset, he or she will be subject to income tax when the gift is distributed. (An exception to this rule is that beneficiaries who inherit Roth IRA funds do not have to pay taxes on the dollars.) Here are some examples of IRD assets:

- ▶ Non-qualified stock options;
- ▶ Distributions from IRAs and retirement plans;
- ▶ Profit-sharing plans;
- ▶ Deferred compensation;
- ▶ Deferred capital gain on installment sales;
- ▶ Accrued interest on savings bonds;
- ▶ Commissions earned but not received at death (*e.g.*, real estate, insurance, or brokerage);
- ▶ Remaining payments from lottery winnings (if you took a cash payout);
- ▶ Accounts receivable or unpaid fees from people or companies for whom the decedent provided services (*e.g.*, doctors, attorneys, accountants, etc.);
- ▶ Grain in storage, harvested crops, or bales of hay; and
- ▶ Uncollected salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, vacation pay, and sick pay of a cash-basis employee.

When a donor provides at death for a direct transfer from his or her retirement account to a qualified charity, however, the entire value of the IRD assets will go to the charity tax free. In addition, the donor's estate receives a charitable estate tax deduction for the entire amount of the gift. Making a gift of IRD can be quite easy. For example, a donor could make to a charity a specific bequest of U.S. savings bonds owned at death, or the donor can simply change the beneficiary designation on his or her retirement account — *e.g.*, IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or defined contribution plan.

Your retirement plan administrator can furnish you with the appropriate designation of beneficiary forms to complete. As in a will bequest, you can authorize a portion or percentage of your retirement assets to be shared by any combination of charities and/or other heirs.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

By donating securities held long term (more than one year) to a charitable organization, you can avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation and receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of your donation. If your estate will be subject to federal estate tax, removing assets from your estate can also save estate taxes. Here is an example of the advantages of giving appreciated stock versus the gift of money:

Giving Appreciated Stock

Value of stock gift (35% tax bracket) = \$25,000

Your basis (what you paid for it) in the stock = \$5,000

Expected gain from the sale of the stock = \$20,000

Savings by contributing the stock to charity:

\$25,000 charitable deduction (savings of \$8,750 in income taxes
($\$25,000 \times 35\%$))

\$3,000 capital gains tax savings ($15\% \times \$20,000$)

NET COST OF GIFT = \$13,250 ($\$25,000 - \$8,750 - \$3,000$)

Giving Cash

Value of gift (35% tax bracket) = \$25,000

\$25,000 charitable deduction (savings of \$8,750 in income taxes
($\$25,000 \times 35\%$))

NET COST OF CASH GIFT = \$19,250 ($\$25,000 - \$8,750 + \$3,000$)

Life Income Gifts

Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) and Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity (DCGA)

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between a donor and the issuing charity. This is often the gift of choice when a guaranteed present income or future income is desired. In this gift option, typically a gift of cash or securities is transferred to the charity of the donor's choice in exchange for a contractual life income paid to the donor or donors at least annually, or deferred to a later date in the case of a DCGA. The income is guaranteed by the issuing charity, and the donor can name himself or herself sole annuitant or designate a second annuitant, usually a spouse. A gift annuity can also be purchased on behalf of another party — for example, an adult child. If the CGA is a two-life annuity, the payout will continue until the death of the second annuitant. A portion of the gift is invested by the charity and used to provide income for life, and the remaining portion qualifies as a present-interest gift to the charity, which then entitles the donor to a charitable tax deduction. Some charities require that annuitants be of a certain age — say, 65 — before they can enter into any gift annuity. Some charities also have a minimum dollar amount to fund a CGA.

The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) sets suggested maximum rates for CGAs and DCGAs. The ACGA reviews the rates and can change them periodically, depending upon the current interest rates and current mortality tables. The majority of charities use the rates recommended by the ACGA, and these rates are incorporated into charitable CGA software programs. The annuity payout rate will be determined by the age or ages of the annuitants, although some charities deviate from the suggested rates. (Be careful that a charity that does not use the suggested rates has sufficient assets to pay for a higher rate.) In the case of a DCGA, the rate is set at the time the gift is made, but the rate is reflective of what the software program projects the appropriate payout rate will be when the annuitant begins to take payment. Almost all charities that offer gift annuities use software programs that automatically calculate the rate. You can easily request an illustration that will include your variables of amount of gift and age(s) of annuitant(s). This illustration or projection will clearly show the charitable deduction, payout rate, and annuity payment.

Technically, a CGA/DCGA is part gift and part sale, or a *bargain sale*. Think of it as two separate transactions: a gift to the charity and then the purchase of an annuity. The gift portion is the value of the property transferred to the charity minus the present value of the annuity. The sale portion is the present value of the annuity. The payout of any gift annuity depends on the asset that was transferred to the charity. So, some of the annuity payment will be tax free, some might be return of capital gain income, and some might be ordinary income. The following is helpful to know:

- ▶ *If the donor contributes cash:* The annuity payment is part tax-free return of principal and part ordinary income, for the duration of the annuitant's life expectancy.
- ▶ *If the donor contributes appreciated, long-term property:* The annuity payment is part tax-free return of principal, part return of capital gain income, and part ordinary income — all for the duration of the donor's life expectancy. Another way to look at it: if a donor transfers this kind of property to fund the gift annuity, he or she is deemed to have sold a portion of the property to the charity and the donor can

then spread the capital gains over his or her life expectancy (as opposed to incurring the full amount of the capital gains tax if the same property was sold on the open market and not given to charity).

Another component to consider in a CGA or DCGA is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) discount rate, which is used to determine the charitable deduction. The rate is the annual rate of return that the IRS assumes the gift assets will earn during the gift term. The IRS discount rate is published monthly and is announced on about the 20th of the month that precedes the month to which the rate will apply. It equals 120 percent of the annual midterm rate, rounded to the nearest 0.2 percent. The annual midterm rate is the annualized average yield of Treasury instruments over the past 30 days that have remaining maturities of three to nine years.

Basically, the higher the discount rate, the higher the charitable deduction will be, and vice versa. In calculating the charitable deduction, a donor is entitled to use the rate for the month in which the gift is made or the rate of either of the two previous months, so the timing of a CGA or DCGA can become important. If the charitable deduction is important to the donor, he or she may want to wait until the discount rate is at an acceptable percentage. At the time this chapter was updated (January 2009), the IRS discount rate was 2.4, which is the lowest it has ever historically been reported. The discount rate is reflective of the economy, and because of the ongoing economic downturn, the rate has dropped to its lowest numbers ever. In the past 13 years, the rate reached its highest point of 8.2 in July and August 1996. Lower federal interest rates mean lower IRS discount rates, which, consequently, mean lower charitable tax deductions for CGA or DCGA annuitants. But the upside of a lower discount rate is that the tax-free portion of a gift annuity's payment is maximized.

If all of this sounds very complicated, it really is not! The CGA or DCGA is a very popular planned gift option. To belie your fears, let us sum up the benefits of this type of gift, which may be attractive to you:

- ▶ It yields income for life (fixed payments).
- ▶ The donor can select the starting date of the income.
- ▶ It gives the possibility of one or two income beneficiaries.
- ▶ It is a guaranteed contractual agreement — payment is an absolute obligation of the issuing charity.
- ▶ The donor desires to make a present gift to a favorite charity.
- ▶ The donor can turn low or non-producing assets into higher-return assets by establishing a charitable gift annuity with cash or securities.

Here is a list of the current rates as of February 2009:

One Life		Two Lives	
Your Age	Rate of Return	Your Ages	Rate of Return
50	4.4	50/55	3.9
55	4.8	55/60	4.4
60	5.0	60/65	4.8
65	5.3	65/70	5.0
70	5.7	70/75	5.3
75	6.3	75/80	5.8
80	7.1	80/85	6.5
85	8.1	85/90	7.5

The rate of return is slightly lower for two lives because the period of payment generally is longer.

These rates are subject to change. Please check with your charity for current rates offered.

Please be advised that not all organizations offer CGAs at the above ages and rates.

Here's an example of how a gift annuity can work:

Donor profile:

Mr. Brown, aged 72, currently owns \$25,000 in highly appreciated stock, which is producing low dividends. With retirement approaching, Mr. Brown is considering ways to secure his future income.

Strategy to reduce capital gains:

Mr. Brown establishes a \$25,000 charitable gift annuity by donating his highly appreciated stock to a charity.

Financial Benefits:

Annuity: \$25,000

Annuity Payout: 5.9%

Annual Payout for Life: \$1,475

Immediate Charitable Tax Deduction: \$10,845.50 (assumes a 3.6 percent IRS discount rate)

A great advantage of funding a charitable gift annuity with a donation of highly appreciated stock is the reduction of capital gains tax liability. The 15 percent capital gains tax is eliminated on the gift portion of the transfer. Although he will have some capital gains tax spread out over his life expectancy, Mr. Brown avoids an immediate payment of \$3,750 in capital gains tax that would be due if he sold the securities.

Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

A charitable remainder trust is a separate trust arrangement between a donor and a trustee chosen by the donor, and will always involve a legal document establishing the terms of the trust. The trustee can be a bank or trust company, brokerage firm, an individual, a charity, or even the donor. Under the terms of the CRT, the donor reserves the right to receive payment from the trust or can provide for payment to other beneficiaries. When the trust is dissolved (often at the death of the donor or surviving beneficiaries), the remaining principal is distributed to the charity or charities named by the donor who established the trust. A CRT is an *irrevocable* planned gift; that is, the donor cannot change his or her mind once the trust is established and he or she receives the corresponding charitable tax deduction. The beneficiary charities can be changed, but the trust remainder will be paid out to a charitable organization or else punitive tax results will occur. As with all planned gifts, if you are considering a CRT, be sure to seek the advice of your advisors, including tax consultants and attorneys.

To fund a CRT, cash, securities, real property, or other assets are transferred into a trust. The trustee manages the trust assets and pays the donor's beneficiaries a fixed income for life or for a term of years. CRTs come in a variety of forms including a fixed income annuity trust, in which the annual income never changes, and a unitrust, in which the assets are valued each year and the income is paid according to the trust's value. CRTs can even be designed to hold real estate and pay no income, but once the real estate is sold, the trust flips into a life income trust.

Most banks and trust companies that serve as trustees require a minimum of \$100,000 to establish this type of planned gift. The administrative costs for managing charitable trusts can be quite high, usually a percentage of the trust's assets. Because the CRT is considered a separate entity, it must file a tax return and can be responsible for other reporting duties, which can make the cost of maintenance too high for smaller-sized accounts below \$100,000. Further, preparing the CRT documents can run into a few thousand dollars. So, the CRT is certainly not for everyone. The benefits of a CRT, though, especially a unitrust, are numerous: these trusts are extremely flexible, can be established with high payout rates, can be used to provide maintenance and support for a surviving spouse, can turn low or non-producing assets into higher payout assets, can receive additional assets during the life of the CRT (in the case of a unitrust), and more. Here is a comprehensive list of the advantages of this type of gift:

- ▶ The donor retains the right to receive income for his or her life, the lives of others, or for a specified term of years.
- ▶ There is the possibility of multiple beneficiaries.

- ▶ Assets transferred into the CRT can be sold and reinvested in higher income-producing assets.
- ▶ The donor has the ability to choose the trustee (and can self-trustee, if desired).
- ▶ A CRT preserves the principal of one's assets while generating life income.
- ▶ The donor can elect to receive a fixed income based on the original value of assets transferred or an income based on the value of the assets recalculated each year (annuity trust versus unitrust options).
- ▶ The donor can continue to fund the CRT if it is a charitable remainder unitrust (assets revalued each year). If the CRT is established as a fixed income trust (a charitable remainder annuity trust), the donor cannot make additional gifts to the trust in the future.
- ▶ The donor receives a charitable income tax deduction in the year that he or she funds the CRT.
- ▶ The donor chooses the amount of the payment (generally, a percentage of the initial gift amount or value of assets).
- ▶ The trustee can tailor the investment strategy of the CRT and the taxable character of the income to meet the unique needs of the donor.
- ▶ The donor can choose one or more charitable organizations to share in the trust principal upon termination of the CRT and reserves the right to change any charity.
- ▶ The donor can change the frequency and timing of the payments (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually).
- ▶ The donor can reduce potential estate taxes by removing the assets from his or her estates.
- ▶ The donor can avoid/mitigate capital gains tax by funding the trust with appreciated property.

A CRT can be an excellent strategy to use with illiquid assets and comes in several varieties. For example, consider the following example. John and Jane Green, ages 72 and 70, jointly own undeveloped land that is currently valued at \$550,000 and has a cost basis (the price they paid for the property) of \$70,000. They are in a 35 percent tax bracket, and property taxes run \$10,000 per year. They owe nothing on the property and are in a 15 percent capital gains bracket. The property does not produce any income. If they sold the property, the Greens would incur capital gains of \$480,000. Therefore, their capital gains tax would be \$72,000 if they sold the land.

The Greens learned that they could convert the property to new income with favorable tax benefits using a charitable remainder flip unitrust. They transferred the land to a 5 percent flip unitrust, retaining a joint and survivor income interest. When the land is sold, the trust holding the property "flips" to a regular CRT unitrust and the proceeds from the land sale are reinvested in assets that produce an income for the Greens. When the trust is dissolved, the remaining assets will go to a charity of their choice.

By transferring the land to a flip unitrust, the Greens accomplished the following:

- ▶ Made an irrevocable gift to one or more of their favorite charities;
- ▶ Avoided an immediate capital gains tax of \$72,000;
- ▶ Generated new income once the property was sold;
- ▶ Received a substantial charitable income tax deduction in the year of the transfer; and
- ▶ Reduced probate expenses and potential estate taxes by removing the property from their probate estates.

Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)

A charitable lead trust is like a mirror image of the charitable remainder trust. In this gift option, a donor transfers property to the lead trust, which pays a percentage of the value of the trust assets, usually for a term of years, to the charity of the donor's choice. At the end of the trust term, the remaining assets in the trust and any growth it has realized are passed onto the donor or his or her designated beneficiaries. Donors use lead trusts to accomplish the following:

- ▶ Accelerate an income tax charitable deduction for future charitable gifts into the current tax year (qualified grantor lead trust);
- ▶ Pass property to heirs and beneficiaries at reduced transfer tax cost (qualified nongrantor lead trust); and
- ▶ Make charitable gifts beyond the federal income tax charitable contribution ceilings.

There are two types of charitable lead trusts: the *grantor lead trust* and the more popular *nongrantor lead trust*. A grantor lead trust provides the donor with a charitable income tax deduction for the present value of the payments the charity is to receive from the trust. The donor continues to be taxed on the income earned by the trust each year — including the amounts distributed to the charity. At the end of the trust term, the trust assets are returned to the donor or other designated beneficiaries. To avoid any negative tax result, lead trust donors often fund grantor trusts with tax-exempt securities.

In the other type of lead trust, a nongrantor trust, the donor is not treated as the owner and neither reports income earned in the trust nor receives an income tax deduction for the charity's lead interest. The goal of a nongrantor lead trust, however, is not to get an income tax deduction, but to significantly reduce or even eliminate either the gift or estate transfer tax on the value of the assets used to fund the trust. Like the grantor lead trust, at the end of this CLT's term, the assets remaining in the trust are distributed, usually to children or grandchildren. Any appreciation of the value of the trust will avoid gift and estate taxes (transfer taxes) when they are eventually received by beneficiaries.

Obviously, a CLT, either a grantor or nongrantor variety, is not for everyone. They require extensive tax and legal expertise, and usually benefit those with serious gift and estate tax considerations. A CLT can be a terrific option if a donor has an income-producing asset that will increase in value over time, the donor does not need the income from the asset, and the donor wants the assets back eventually. Here are some of the CLT advantages:

- ▶ The donor receives a gift and estate tax deduction for the assets transferred to the trust (qualified grantor lead trust).
- ▶ CLT property can be transferred to the ultimate beneficiaries at a low transfer cost.
- ▶ Appreciation of the value of the trust will avoid gift and estate taxes (transfer taxes) when eventually received by the beneficiary (nongrantor lead trust).
- ▶ Management of transferred assets can be carried out by an institutional trustee such as a bank or trust department.
- ▶ It is the best option if the donor has a moderate to large taxable estate.
- ▶ The trust will hold assets with growth and income potential, outside of the donor's estate.
- ▶ The donor desires to pass certain assets to heirs or keep them in his or her estate, but also has charitable intent and wants to benefit his or her favorite charity.

Retained Life Estate Deed: Personal Residence or Farm

You can donate your personal residence, farm, or vacation home to the charity of your choice while retaining the right to live on and use the property for life, or for a fixed term of years. This arrangement is called a *retained life estate*. In exchange for this type of planned gift, you receive an immediate income tax deduction. The amount depends on the value of the property and your age (and the age of any other person given life use). In addition, you retain the right to rent your home or make improvements to it. You continue to have responsibility for maintenance, insurance, and property taxes. The advantages of this type of planned gift could be attractive for a donor who does not plan to leave the property to his or her heirs, who has taxable income and could benefit from a charitable deduction, and who wants to benefit his or her favorite charity. Here is a list of the benefits of making a retained life estate gift:

- ▶ The donor receives an immediate income tax deduction for the value of the property minus the present value of the retained life estate.
- ▶ The donor can retain full use of the property during his or her lifetime.
- ▶ The donor can reduce gift and estate taxes that would be owed by his or her heirs by removing assets from his or her probate estate.
- ▶ The donor can make a gift now, while retaining the right to use the property.
- ▶ Obviously, this type of gift will work best for donors who have no plans or desire to pass their residence, farm, or vacation home to their heirs, or who have no heirs to whom they wish to leave the property.
- ▶ The donor can immediately benefit a charity of his or her choice.

Here's an example of how a retained life estate gift works. Ellen, aged 65, a widow, deeds her home to XYZ Charity, though she plans to live there for the rest of her life. The market value of the property is \$200,000 (the house, \$160,000, and the land, \$40,000). Using the required IRS table to discount the gift based on Ellen's life expectancy and future depreciation of the house, her accountant determines her income tax deduction to be in excess of \$70,000, which she can take the year of her gift, plus she can carry over any excess deduction over an additional five tax years. Ellen remains in the property until her death or she moves, and retains all incidents of ownership.

18-4. Conclusion

Hopefully, this chapter has enticed you to think about your giving nature and brought about such questions as: Do I want to give to charity? Can I afford to give? How much should I give? Is my charity worthy of a gift? What about my heirs? In the event that you have come to a "Heart and Head" conclusion that charitable giving, especially the gift of a legacy, is something you would like to pursue, the options that gift planning provide are numerous. Although by no means a complete explanation or listing of all the varieties of planned gifts, we provide here a starting point we hope you will find helpful.

18-5. Resources

In today's society, there are more complexities than Thomas Jefferson could ever have anticipated. Fortunately, modern technology gives us an opportunity to evaluate charitable organizations through a variety of resources. Some of those resources are listed here for your convenience:

Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, works to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of over 5,300 of America's largest charities.

www.charitynavigator.org

U.S. National Better Business Bureau

A project of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, give.org evaluates charities based on financial and management practices. This is the only major site that names charities that do not meet standards.

www.give.org/reports/index.asp

JustGive Guide

JustGive maintains a database of screened and approved charities, organized by subject. A good choice for donors more interested in giving to a particular cause rather than a particular charity.

www.justgive.org

American Institute of Philanthropy Charity Watch

This website provides names and ratings for top-rated charities only. Lesser-rated organizations can be found in their print publication, "Charity Rating Guide."

www.charitywatch.org/toprated.html

GuideStar

The idea here is to provide enough information for donors to make their own judgments. The database includes all IRS-registered tax-deductible charities, comprising over 700,000 organizations. Some listings do not provide full data. You can find interesting information on this site, such as charity CEO and director salaries.

www.guidestar.org

American Red Cross

For over 130 years, Red Cross volunteers have been guided by a single principle: to help people in need, regardless of race, religion, gender, or national origin. The Red Cross has been there, and will continue to be there, for disaster victims in need of food, clothing, and shelter.

www.redcross.org

Network for Good

Network for Good is an e-philanthropy site where individuals can donate, volunteer, and get involved with the issues they care about.

www.networkforgood.org

* The Office of Gift Planning at CSU cultivates, designs, facilitates, and stewards planned gifts to the University, and works with donors who contribute non-cash gifts (appreciated stocks, real estate, etc.). In our efforts, we use a variety of financial tools and techniques for giving, including bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts. All planned gifts require the assistance of one or more qualified specialists: an attorney, certified public accountant, estate planning specialist, trust officer, and/or an insurance agent can be involved as we work with donors to accomplish their charitable goals.

In addition, we provide education to our donors through marketing and outreach efforts that include advertisements, publications, brochures, website information, e-newsletters, public speaking presentations, and the like. We consider it absolutely essential to make our office a resource for folks who are contemplating a deferred gift or have any questions concerning their estate planning goals. Additionally, we supply technical expertise to our colleagues in the development staff and work closely with them if they have a donor who is considering a planned gift.