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Planned Gifts Leaving a Legacy the Best Way for You!

The Way to Give	When Can I Arrange this?	Do I need an estate planner or attorney?*	When Does the Organization Benefit?	How Does the Donor Benefit, and When?	Can I change my mind?
Cash, stock, mutual funds	Today, or any day!	No*	Immediately	The donor receives a tax deduction immediately, to the limit of the law.	No
Stock, Bonds and Mutual Funds that have increased in value.		No*	Immediately	The donor receives a tax deduction immediately AND pays no capital gains tax on shares that have increased in value.	No
Stock, Bonds and Mutual Funds that have lost value.	Reconsider donating these and consider cash instead	No*	Immediately	If shares have lost value it is usually better to sell them, take the loss, and donate the cash.	No
A Gift from my IRA today**	Today	No*	Immediately	A tax deduction for the gift, AND it can serve as the Required Minimum Deduction if the donor is over 72	No
A gift from my IRA upon my death	Today	No*	Upon your death.	The donor gets no deduction but heirs would have to pay income tax on IRA inheritance, so might benefit more from a different bequest.	Yes, as often as you like.
Insurance: a paid-up policy with cash value.	Today, if you donate the policy itself	No*	Immediately	A tax deduction if the policy is donated to the organization.	No

Insurance: a policy that requires premium payments	Today, but someone must pay the premiums	No*		A tax deduction if the policy is donated to the organization.	Yes
A Charitable Gift Annuity	Today	Yes	Upon your death (or a second beneficiary's death)	A charitable deduction at the time of the gift AND income for life.	No
A Charitable Remainder Trust	Today	Yes		A charitable deduction at the time of the gift AND income for life.	No
A Charitable Lead Trust	Today	Yes	Today, and for the duration of the trust.	The donor can bequeath these assets to a second generation but does not receive a tax deduction.	No
A Gift of Property	Today, and the organization can use or sell the property now.	No*	5	A tax deduction based on the fair market value or an adjusted value dependent on the item.	
A life estate of property (such as a house)	Today, and the donor can continue to use the property for life.	Yes		An adjusted tax deduction based on the value and the life expectancy of the donor.	No

*Note that it is always wise to consult your financial advisor before making a charitable gift, but some gifts do not require professional assistance for set up.

**Required Minimum Deductions have been suspended for 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis

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