

# Types of Gifts

*When you establish a fund at Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, or wish to add to one at any time in the future, the Community Foundation can accept the following assets:*

**Cash:** Cash, usually in the form of a check, is an easy and convenient way for you to support worthy causes in the community. Gifts of cash enable you to claim a tax deduction of up to 50% of your adjusted gross income in any one year when you itemize deductions, with the excess, if any, carried forward for an additional five years. Actual savings from gifts of cash depend on your tax bracket—the higher the tax bracket, the higher the deduction.

**Securities:** Gifts of appreciated securities offer important tax advantages, since their full fair market value is deductible as a charitable contribution up to 30% of your adjusted gross income each year when you itemize deductions. Deduction amounts that exceed the limit can be carried forward for up to five additional years. You do not have to pay federal or state capital gains taxes on the appreciated portion of the gift. After we liquidate the securities, the full value of the gift is available to support your charitable goals.

**Stocks and Bonds:** We can accept gifts of publicly traded stock, publicly traded bonds, closely held stock, restricted stock, partnership interests (including family limited partnerships), and mutual funds.

**IRA:** The IRA charitable contribution provides a tax benefit for many taxpayers over age 72. You can make a direct charitable distribution, up to \$100,000 per calendar year, that counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution. This can be used as a one-time gift or to satisfy a pledge. Charitable contributions are limited to 50% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) each year. The excess can be carried forward five years.

**Real Estate:** We can accept a gift of a house or other personal residence, farms, commercial buildings, and income-producing or non-income-producing land. A gift of real estate that you have owned for more than a year entitles you to a tax deduction of the fair market value of the property—while allowing you to avoid paying capital gains tax.

**Bequests:** Naming the Community Foundation in your will or living trust is a popular way to support the community. A charitable bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage or all of your estate, or what remains after other bequests are made. Or, your will can specify that your heirs will receive lifetime income from your estate, with the remainder going to the Community Foundation for charitable purposes. If you choose, the bequest can flow into a donor-advised fund, and your children can be named as successor advisors, recommending grants from the fund. The Community Foundation can provide sample language for naming us in your bequest.

**Personal Property:** The Community Foundation will consider gifts of personal property, such as artwork and jewelry. This type of gift must be discussed individually with someone in our office.

-over-

---

**Retirement Plan Assets:** For a gift through your estate, retirement plan assets are often beneficial because they are so heavily taxed if left to heirs. Income and estate taxes can easily consume over 65% of the account balance at death. By naming the Community Foundation as the remainder beneficiary of these assets, you can leave a charitable legacy.

**Life Insurance:** Making a gift of an unneeded life insurance policy can be an effective way of achieving your charitable goals. When you transfer ownership of a cash value policy to Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, you become eligible for a charitable tax deduction based on its current value. You can name the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of the policy.

Additional giving options are available to carry out your philanthropic goals. Your professional advisor can provide more details, along with tax implications.

For more information about all the Community Foundation offers, please contact us at 843.681.9100.