Useful Tips on Charitable Donations

Here are ways that you can super-charge your charitable giving to make a difference in the lives of others and potentially help your tax liability as well. The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) is available to help you make a gift that is meaningful to you and the organizations or communities you care about.

Give a secure gift online

The Alaska Community Foundation accepts secure credit card gifts online at https://alaskacf.org/funds/. You will have the choice of giving to a field of interest fund such as The Alaska Fund, the most flexible fund to meet emerging needs and opportunities in Alaska, The Safety Net Fund, Social Justice, or other broad areas of interest. Other choices include giving to local community foundations or to one of the many nonprofit agencies that have long-term funds with ACF. This type of gift helps provide sustainability for the organizations in our state that are making a difference in the quality of life in Alaska.

Mail a check

To receive a 2019 deduction, postmark your check to The Alaska Community Foundation by December 31, 2019. With checks and credit card gifts, you will earn a charitable income tax deduction of up to 30% of your adjusted gross income if you itemize. Like the stock gift, if you are not able to use all of your deduction in a given year, you may be able to “carry forward” the unused portion of the deduction for up to five years.

Open a Donor Advised Fund for Greatest Flexibility

You can open a Donor Advised Fund through a gift of appreciated securities or cash today and add to it at anytime. By creating a Donor Advised Fund at ACF, you will receive an immediate tax-deduction and will have the flexibility of deciding when to support your favorite charitable causes or organizations.

Many donors like creating a Donor Advised Fund because it acts like a private family foundation without higher administrative costs or the requirement to pay out 5% annually. It’s also a great way to involve children or grandchildren in giving. While there are many entities that offer these types of funds, ACF provides expertise on Alaska nonprofits and personalized, local service. In addition to being able to make your own grant recommendations, you will be able to learn about other pressing needs and opportunities in our state, and have the ability to leverage your donations with others.
Useful Tips on Charitable Giving

Give your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA

Now your retirement funds can go further than ever. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to $100,000 of your Required Minimum Distribution annually from a traditional IRA to a charity, such as ACF, without incurring taxes today, or estate and income taxes in the future. If married, both partners can give up to $100,000 from each traditional IRA annually.

Your donation needs to be sent directly from your IRA manager to ACF, and be identified as a rollover from you. Because it bypasses your income, there is no charitable deduction. You can use your IRA charitable rollover to give to Affiliate funds, Field of Interest funds, or nonprofit agency funds, but due to IRS regulations, a charitable rollover can’t be used for a Donor Advised Fund.

Consider a gift in your will or by naming ACF as a beneficiary on your IRA

Making a donation through your estate plans will provide you with peace of mind and contribute to a more caring Alaska in the future. The Alaska Community Foundation provides confidential, personalized philanthropy advising on including a gift in your estate plans to a cause or community you care about. If you would like to create a scholarship, family endowment or other special fund, we will work with you and your professional advisor to make sure a future fund is set up in a way that can be carried out effectively. We will draft a Legacy Fund agreement that can be included in your estate plans and can be easily updated for free if your interests change.

If you have already included The Alaska Community Foundation in your will, please let us know so we can make sure your gift will be used in the manner you intend.

Make a gift through stocks or mutual funds

One of the best ways to maximize your giving is to give a gift of appreciated stock or mutual fund shares. This is especially helpful when the market is up and you have seen gains in a stock you have held for a year or more.

When you donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, you bypass capital gains and earn a charitable income tax deduction of up to 30% of your adjusted gross income if you itemize. If you can’t use the full deduction right away, you may be able to “carry forward” the unused portion for up to five years. Also, the fund or organization gets the full value of the appreciated stock. You don’t have to donate all the shares of an appreciated stock you own. Talk with your broker about the amount you’d like to donate and ask which shares in your taxable funds have appreciated the most.

If you do make a gift of stock, please notify us so we’ll know the stock came from you and direct it to the fund you wish.

How to transfer stock to ACF

You can transfer stock directly from your account to ours. Just contact Kevin Gray, ACF CFO, at kgray@alaskacf.org to inform us of your upcoming gift. Please provide your broker with the following information:

ACF Custodial Account: Wells Fargo Bank, NA Participant #2027
Agent Bank ID: 94866
Account # 25639600, Alaska Community Fund General
Institution 94866

For gifts of mutual funds, contact Kevin Gray at 907-274-6703.

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