

# Charitable Planning

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**H**ere are some tips to consider throughout the year from five professional advisors who have recently completed the **Trusted Charitable Advisor Program** at the Jewish Community Foundation.

**#1** Open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). Donate highly-appreciated investments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds) to it. This may enable a larger gift (and a larger tax deduction) than simply writing a check, since the donor would avoid paying the capital gains taxes from selling appreciated investments and then contributing the after-tax proceeds. When you establish a DAF, you can take an immediate tax deduction and then take your time in identifying the charities you want to receive your donations.

- *Dean Kernus, CFP®, CPA, AIF®*

**#2** Are you required to take mandatory distributions from your IRA? Consider using the Qualified Charitable Deduction to lower your taxable income. Retirees over the age of 70 1/2 have the option of donating up to \$100,000 of that distribution to charity. By donating your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to charity, it will be excluded from your adjusted gross income on your tax return.

- *Janet Acheatel, CFP®, CDFIA*

**#3** Give to charity. With or without new tax laws, whether or not you are subject to Alternative Minimum Tax, your charitable deductions remain deductible - as long as you itemize deductions. To get more bang for your buck, consider donating appreciated shares of stock or mutual funds. Your donation will be deductible at fair market value and you won't have to pay tax on the gain!

- *Sheryl Rowling, CPA, PFS*

**#4** Review your estate plan to think about whether your trustees/fiduciaries are up to the job. If you have named your children in your estate plan, it is a good idea to schedule a meeting with your children and estate planning attorney to discuss the plan in detail.

- *Daniel J. Wilson, Attorney*

**#5** Short of cash? Use your credit card. You can deduct contributions in the year you make them. If you charge your gift to a credit card before the end of the year, it will count for that year, even if you don't pay the credit card bill until the following calendar/tax year.

- *Jeff Platt, JD, CFA, CFP®*

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The Jewish Community Foundation offers the Trusted Charitable Advisor (TCA) program to advance charitable planning and to further strengthen our partnership with the San Diego professional advisor community. For more information and to see the full list of Trusted Charitable Advisors, please visit [www.jcfsandiego.org/TCA](http://www.jcfsandiego.org/TCA)

