

## It's Time Again to Think About Giving Year-end reminds us to take stock financially and philanthropically

By Julianna McClatchey

During the Great Depression, people came together to help each other. Things haven't changed much, except that we are much more prosperous today. In these more prosperous times people are still coming together to help each other and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is one example of how they do it very effectively.

Across America today, charitable giving has increased, but you may be surprised to learn that Oregonians have not kept pace. According to the Giving in Oregon Council, Oregon ranks 25th nationally in terms of adjusted growth income, yet we rank 40th nationally in charitable giving per household based on charitable giving deductions taken on income tax returns.

Charitable giving benefits everyone by creating a safety net for the most needy, supporting religious programs, and ensuring the continuity of Jewish life in Oregon and SW Washington. There is no better time than now for each of us to make decisions about what we can do to serve our neighbors and community through charity.

Giving is easier than ever today because of the variety of philanthropic vehicles available to us. Programs can be tailored for the young and old, the wealthy, and the middle class. These vehicles can help you to help your community, provide you with immediate tax benefits, and create traditions of philanthropy for your children and grandchildren. Here are some ways you can give, avenues that the OJCF can help you to navigate:

### Cash

You can start a Donor-Advised Fund with \$10,000, and donate any amount you like after that. The fund has great flexibility and also gives you immediate and maximum tax deductibility.

### Securities

When you make an outright gift of stocks or bonds that have grown in value, you can save on taxes by taking a charitable deduction for the market value of the stock, remove assets subject to estate tax, and avoid the capital gains tax. If the deduction is larger than you can use in one year, you can assign the surplus as deductions over the next five years until it is completely used.

### Real Estate

Subject to the approval of the OJCF Gift Acceptance Committee, you can donate real

estate and receive a charitable deduction for the market value, avoid capital gains tax, and reduce estate tax.

### Life Insurance

This is one of the most cost-effective options to helping your community. You can buy a life insurance policy that names the OJCF as the beneficiary, or transfer ownership of an existing policy. This program enables you to create a significant endowment, even if you don't currently have sufficient funds to do so. Premiums paid to the foundation can be taken as charitable income tax deductions for federal income tax purposes, as can the cash surrender value of an existing policy you have transferred to the foundation.

### Charitable Bequests

You can provide for others through the foundation while significantly reducing taxes otherwise payable by your estate. The fund continues in your name permanently, a living symbol of your belief in the continuity of the Jewish people. You may also designate a specific bequest to the foundation in your will to create a fund.

### Charitable Remainder Annuity, Lead and Unitrusts

You can irrevocably transfer assets into one of the above trusts. The foundation can serve as the trustee to invest the funds, pay the income,

prepare the annual tax reporting forms, and when the last income beneficiary dies or the trust term expires, distribute the remainder to the appropriate benefactor (based on type of trust selected). Your benefits include a charitable donation for gift value, income for life, avoidance of capital gains tax and reduction of estate tax.

Approximately 2 percent of the U.S. population is Jewish. Assuming that Jews account for 4 percent of the wealth, \$400 billion in Jewish hands will be transferred to two of three beneficiaries: family, charity, or government.

This is a huge opportunity for all of us and there's no time to waste. Leaving a legacy is a good thing, and your example can help others to make the same choice. The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is here to assist you and your team of professional advisors at no charge. If you are interested in creating a donor advised fund, contact our staff at 503-248-9328, or write to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation; 610 SW Broadway, Suite 407; Portland, OR 97205.

Article educating Jewish community on philanthropic giving options.  
Writer

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### It's time again to think about giving

Year-end reminds us to take stock financially and philanthropically

**By Julianna McClatchey**

**B**efore the year is over, it's time to think about giving. The year-end is a great time to take stock of your financial and philanthropic situation. It's a time to reflect on what you've accomplished and to plan for the future. Giving is easier than ever today because of the variety of philanthropic vehicles available to us. Programs can be tailored for the young and old, the wealthy, and the middle class. These vehicles can help you to help your community, provide you with immediate tax benefits, and create traditions of philanthropy for your children and grandchildren. Here are some ways you can give, avenues that the OJCF can help you to navigate:

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