Charitable Instruments

A variety of giving methods tailored to your unique situation.

**Outright Gifts of Cash and Securities**
This is a simple and common way to benefit any fund at Montana Community Foundation, Inc. (MCF). In addition, donations of stock that have increased greatly in value will incur no capital gains tax as long as the securities have been owned for more than one year.

**Bequests**
You can designate a gift or portion of your estate to one or more funds at MCF, and in some cases, receive a substantial reduction in federal gift and estate taxes.

**Bank Accounts and CDs**
Name MCF as the payable-on-death beneficiary of your bank accounts or certificates of deposit. You own the assets for your lifetime and have them available for your use. Upon your death, the assets pass directly to MCF without going through probate for the benefit of the fund(s) you selected.

**Life Insurance**
Rather than cancel policies you no longer need, select a fund at MCF to name as the beneficiary, or simply donate the policies to MCF outright.

**Retirement Plan Assets**
Your most efficient estate planning option may be leaving all or a portion of your retirement plan to MCF to benefit one or more funds of your choosing, because tax laws often subject these assets to income and estate taxes upon your death. At the same time, you can pass more tax-favored assets to your family. Many techniques can be used to avoid income taxes up to 39.6 percent. An IRA charitable rollover is one such option that is a great choice for people age 70½ or older.

**Real Estate**
If you own property that is not mortgaged, has appreciated in value, and you no longer need or use, donating it to MCF is a simple and effective way to benefit funds of your choosing while deducting the fair market value of the gift and eliminating all capital gains taxes. Plus, you have removed that asset from your taxable estate.

**Charitable Gift Annuity**
Also known as a CGA, this simple option enables you to make a gift to MCF now, get immediate tax benefits, and ensure you or a loved one receive fixed annual income for life. The older you are, the higher your annuity rate. For donors who do not wish to receive income payments, a deferred charitable gift annuity, otherwise known as a DGA, is a popular option that provides the maximum tax advantage for the gift. Donations of cash, securities, and other property may be used for gift annuities, with highly-appreciated stock offering the additional advantage of foregoing some or all capital gains tax. When the gift annuity is eventually relinquished by the donor, or terminated upon their death, the balance of the annuity — which has been invested over time — is then transferred to the fund(s) at MCF named as the beneficiary of the gift.

**Charitable Remainder Trust**
You can place cash or property in a trust that pays annual fixed or variable income to you (or another named beneficiary) for life or a period of time not to exceed 20 years. Income tax benefits are available for the year you establish the trust. At the end of the trust’s term, the remaining assets transfer to MCF for the benefit of the charitable fund(s) you selected.
Charitable instruments

Charitable Lead Trust
This type of charitable trust pays income to one or more charitable organizations, typically for a period of years, after which the remaining trust assets pass to the family members.

Retained Life Estate
You can transfer the deed of your personal residence or farm to MCF now and retain the right to live in and use the property for your lifetime. You will receive a current charitable deduction in an amount that is based on your life expectancy and the value of the property.

Bargain Sale
In this scenario, you agree to sell property to MCF at less than its fair market value, with the difference between the sale price and the fair market value being your charitable deduction. The net result is often more favorable than selling the property at fair market value and making a charitable contribution from the capital gain.

Helpful terms to know

Fair Market Value
The price a willing buyer and a willing seller can agree on.

Beneficiary
An individual or organization designated to receive benefits or funds under a will or other contract, such as an insurance policy, trust or retirement plan.

Probate
The court process for determining the validity of a deceased person’s will and distributing his or her assets.

Capital Gain
The increase in value of an asset, such as stock or real estate, since its purchase.

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1 Gift may qualify for Montana Endowment Tax Credit.
* The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice, please consult your attorney and/or tax professional.