

# Choosing community over taxes

## Charitable Beneficiary Designation



**Naming the community foundation as a beneficiary** of your retirement plan is not only easy to do, it is also a way to make a significant and lasting gift to our community that may not be possible during your lifetime.

### How it works

- You designate the community foundation as a full or partial beneficiary of your qualified retirement plan using a form supplied by the policy underwriter or plan administrator.
- When you are no longer living, the benefit comes to the community foundation. We set up a special fund in your name, in the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose. Or, you may choose to have the assets contributed to an existing fund.
- We handle all the administrative details.
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

### A safe way to make a big impact

Kevin and Mary Goodman care deeply about their family and their community. So, they turned to their professional advisor for guidance in fulfilling their desires to ensure that their children are taken care of and a charitable legacy is left to the community. When they learned that retirement assets are often subject to two taxes (income and estate tax) that could reduce the value of those assets by up to 75% if left to their children, they quickly determined that these assets would be best designated for charity. By naming their community foundation as a beneficiary of the retirement assets, they would be assured that their gift would be paid directly to the foundation and would not be subject to income or estate taxes. They also knew that every dollar (rather than only a small percentage) would be preserved for the community they love. "It made sense to our family to handle our retirement assets in this manner. It is an easy and gratifying way to leave a legacy to our community," says Mary.

*This is a donor scenario, a realistic composite of giving stories. It is not an actual hometown donor story.*

### Ten reasons people choose to give through community foundations

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#### one

We are a **local organization** with deep roots in the community.

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#### two

Our professional program staff has **broad expertise** regarding community issues and needs.

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#### three

We provide highly **personalized service** tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.

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#### four

Our funds help people **invest in the causes** they care about most.

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#### five

We accept a wide **variety of assets**, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

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#### six

We partner with **professional advisors** to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.

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#### seven

We offer maximum **tax advantage** for most gifts under federal law.

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#### eight

We **multiply the impact** of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.

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#### nine

We build **endowment funds** that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.

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#### ten

We are a **community leader**, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.

### More benefits

If you are concerned with potentially high estate taxes, the charitable beneficiary designation is a good choice because the benefit payment is generally excluded from your estate for tax purposes. And, because you may change the beneficiary designation at any time, your decision is revocable.

One of the most tax-efficient ways to give back to your community is by designating the community foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, whether it is a 401(k), 403(b), IRA (individual retirement account), or other qualified retirement program. These assets could be taxed at rates as high as 70 percent upon your death. Estate taxes may be due in addition to the taxes your heirs may pay on the income in respect of the decedent (IRD). For these reasons, many advisors recommend retirement plan assets as the first to be designated for charitable purposes.

Although your retirement plan beneficiary form overrides your will, it is important that both documents are up-to-date and consistent.

*Community foundations provide a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving. We offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals.*

*You can make a gift of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets to your community foundation. Most charitable gifts qualify for maximum tax advantage under federal law. For more information and ideas on ways to integrate your financial planning with charitable giving, ask your financial advisor or contact your community foundation.*