

The amount deductible for your loss combined with the charitable deduction may actually amount to more than the current value of the donated asset.

When making a gift of securities, check with your financial services provider to ensure that your gift is completed properly and in a timely manner. You should allow additional time for gifts of mutual fund shares or non-publicly traded securities. We will be pleased to assist in this process.

### ***Leaving a Legacy***

Toward the end of each year, many also choose to review their long-range estate and financial plans. Wills, life insurance policies, retirement accounts, and other planning vehicles can offer special ways to leave a lasting legacy to charitable interests.

There are also ways to provide for meaningful future gifts while generating income, immediate tax savings, and other benefits today.

### ***Act Now for Greatest Benefit***

As the year draws to a close, act now to ensure you accomplish your charitable goals for 2008. Remember,

time spent deciding how best to make your gifts can result in increased tax savings, other financial benefits, and the satisfaction of maximizing your giving.

Your accountant or other advisors can provide you with more information specific to your needs. Please contact us if we can be of assistance in any way.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMVIII RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 8024B-08



# ***Giving Thanks*** at Year-End

LOGO  
Name of Organization  
Address  
Phone, etc.

 This brochure is subject to copyright protection and may not be reproduced without The Sharpe Group's consent.

*Fall is traditionally a time when we express thanks for the blessings we have received—and a time to pause and make plans for the future. For many, it can also be a time for sharing with others through charitable gifts.*

*Thinking carefully about what to give—and when to give it—can help increase the impact of your gifts. In this brochure, we present a number of ideas for making gifts in ways that feature tax savings and other special benefits.*

### **Enjoy Tax Savings**

**F**ederal tax laws and those of many states make it possible to save taxes on funds you give for charitable purposes. For example, when you itemize your tax deductions, your charitable gifts can be subtracted from the amount subject to federal income tax. Because of this, you may be able to give more than you might have thought possible, reduce your income tax, or receive a larger tax refund.

Each year, millions of Americans take advantage of the opportunity to make charitable gifts in ways that help them reduce their tax liability.

### **Gifts of Cash**

While all gifts mailed or otherwise completed by December 31 qualify for tax deductibility for 2008, gifts of cash or by check are the most popular ways to give.

Through such gifts, it is possible to eliminate or reduce income tax on up to one-half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Gifts in excess of that amount can result in tax savings in as many as five future tax years. Remember, the higher your tax bracket, the more you save.

### **Give Other Assets and Save Even More**

Gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and certain other assets that have increased in value since you have owned them can result in even greater tax savings.

If you have owned such assets for longer than one year, you can generally give them and deduct their current value, including any “paper profits,” from your taxable income.

Congress has provided that in addition to regular tax savings, you

also do not have to pay capital gains tax when you give such assets. This extra tax savings is another reason why some people choose to make their gifts in this way.

Such gifts can eliminate tax on up to 30% of your AGI. The best assets to give are those that have increased most in value and would therefore result in the greatest capital gains tax if sold. You may also choose to give low-yielding stocks or other investments. This will result in little or no impact on future spendable income.

If you have an investment that has decreased in value, consider selling it and making a gift of all or a portion of the cash proceeds. This results in a charitable deduction as well as a loss for tax purposes.

