



# Charitable Gift Annuities

**Unity Foundation of La Porte County**

*Paying it Forward: Philanthropy Matters*

## Are You Retirement Ready?

Building retirement savings takes many years—for most of us, our entire working lives. Those in the middle of a successful career may find it hard to imagine that the road to retirement will actually come to an end. Those who are almost or already retired are likely surprised at how quickly retirement arrived.

Wherever you are on the retirement spectrum, there is one compatible gift planning idea that is worth considering. A charitable gift annuity can help you arrange savings for retirement, manage income during retirement, and provide welcome support for our mission.

A charitable gift annuity is a gift plan uniquely suited to people who want to:

- Benefit society
- Provide for retirement
- Enjoy a current income tax deduction
- Receive a lifetime income beginning now or at a designated time in the future

You benefit by choosing to delay the start of annuity payments. The longer you defer payments, the larger your tax deduction and the greater the payout rate. This flexibility lets you tailor a gift annuity to meet your specific retirement planning goals.

## A Gift Annuity: Lifetime Income Starting Now

There are several reasons why you might want to establish a charitable gift annuity right now:

- Lock in the payout rate for life—and the payout rates are higher than you might expect (see the rate chart below).
- Immediately reduce your tax bill with a current income tax charitable deduction if you itemize.
- Enjoy an easy set-up without worrying about renewals or falling rates.
- Establish new gift annuities year after year if they meet your planning needs.

SAMPLE ONE-LIFE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY PAYOUT RATES\* (JULY, 2020)

<b>AGE</b>		<b>65</b>		<b>70</b>		<b>75</b>		<b>80</b>		<b>85</b>		<b>90</b>
<b>RATE</b>		<b>4.2%</b>		<b>4.7%</b>		<b>5.4%</b>		<b>6.5%</b>		<b>7.6%</b>		<b>8.6%</b>

\* Rates are subject to change. Please contact our office to verify current rates.

## Understanding the Basics

A charitable gift annuity is a split gift—part charitable gift and part annuity purchase. When you fund a gift annuity, we agree to pay a percentage of the gift amount on a regular basis to one or two beneficiaries for life.

The payout rate depends on several factors. The most important is the age of the person who receives the annuity payments. Another is whether the income is to be paid for one or two lifetimes.

## Why Are Gift Annuities Popular?

Because the minimum gift requirement can be modest, charitable gift annuities give you the opportunity to make meaningful gifts that might not have been possible otherwise. Gift annuities also offer a variety of funding possibilities, including cash, long-term appreciated property, or even real estate. We are happy to explore the possibilities with you to help you determine which assets might produce the best financial and tax results.

## Important Tax Benefits

Since a charitable gift annuity is a split gift—part gift and part income—you enjoy three important tax benefits:

- A generous income tax charitable deduction is available based on the present value of our interest.
- A portion of each payment is tax free until you reach life expectancy, at which time payments are taxed as ordinary income.
- If you use an appreciated asset to fund the charitable gift annuity, no capital gains tax is due on the gift portion, while any capital gains tax attributed to the annuity portion is spread over your life expectancy.

We can provide you with no-obligation illustrations that spell out expected tax and financial benefits so that you can see exactly how a gift annuity might work in your particular situation. Of course, if you establish a gift annuity, we will provide you with the necessary tax information each year.

## DEFERRING PAYMENTS

Many of our supporters are still working. Others have an income stream that will last for a few years, perhaps from a contract sale of real estate or from a deferred compensation plan. You can choose to defer annuity payments until retirement or some later date. Deferral provides a higher payout rate and a bigger income tax charitable deduction if you itemize, and may therefore be even more beneficial to those in their prime working years.

The very attractive deductions and payout rates of the deferred gift annuity often make it an ideal vehicle if you want to make a significant gift while supplementing your retirement planning.

Gift annuities are easy to establish and maintain. You complete a simple written agreement with us. You receive a check at regular intervals. At the end of each year, we send you a statement for use in preparing your income tax returns.

Now, let's look at some frequently asked questions about charitable gift annuities.

### **Can I make additional contributions to a charitable gift annuity?**

No, a charitable gift annuity arrangement does not permit additional contributions. However, since gift annuities are easy to set up, you can always establish new gift annuities. Some of our supporters create a series of gift annuities to begin at different times during retirement.

### **Can I withdraw the funds in case of an emergency?**

No, contributions to gift annuities are irrevocable. The amount you transfer to us can only be returned in the form of annuity payments.

### **Can I name more than one charity as a beneficiary?**

No, a charitable gift annuity is a contractual arrangement between you and a specific charity.

### **Why choose a charitable gift annuity rather than a charitable remainder trust?**

Charitable gift annuities are easier to set up, do not require an initial fee, and have a considerably smaller minimum gift requirement. In many cases, these benefits make a charitable gift annuity more practical than a charitable remainder trust. Many people also like the simplicity of a gift annuity agreement and the fact that some of the payment received may be tax free.

### How can I find out if a gift annuity is right for me?

You can contact us. We will be happy to prepare a personalized illustration showing how a charitable gift annuity might work in your particular situation, including both the projected income stream and the expected tax savings based on the size of the gift and the type of assets used. The benefits are worth exploring, and you can do so without obligation. Let us demonstrate how you might personally benefit from our popular charitable gift annuity program.

### Smart Giving Strategies

There are smart gifting options for every stage of life—practical ways to meet both your planning and philanthropic goals. While each gift greatly benefits our mission, charitable gift annuities also provide important benefits to you. Please take a moment to contact us by phone or email to request additional information about charitable gift annuities. As always, we appreciate your consideration and support.



### Unity Foundation of La Porte County

Your community foundation received accreditation from the National Standards for U. S. Community Foundations. In partnership with the Community Foundation Committee of the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance, your community foundation is pleased to provide this information to you.

422 Franklin Street, Suite C  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
Phone: 219-879-0327  
Fax: 219-210-3881  
unity@uflc.net  
www.uflc.net