

# 5 TIPS TO MAXIMIZE YEAR-END GIVING

## Good Tidings to Make Your Charitable Contributions Go Further

**G**iving to charity is now easier than ever—especially during the holidays. Whether writing a check, opting to “round up” at the register, or simply clicking a “donate” button, you can quickly contribute a donation and be on your merry way. But after a few minutes, that good-deed-feeling fades away, and you may be left wondering if your contribution will lead to solving the larger issue at hand. What if you could take a step back and make your giving go further to reach more people this year? Thankfully, there are some smart ways to give that maximize your good works without adding to your already lengthy holiday to-do list. Here are five tips just in time for the hap-hap-happiest season of all.

### 1 FIND MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES

Many charities have annual fundraising campaigns and mega donors who match contributions—sometimes as much as 3:1—received during specified timeframes. Check to see if your favorite causes have similar matching opportunities that could double or even triple your impact, and help the organizations reach their goals. Employers often offer matching programs too, which can make a big difference to nonprofits who tend to focus on traditional fundraising strategies. You can even initiate the start of a matching fund where you supply the funds that will be matched for a future [matching challenge](#).

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### 2 MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR

The holidays offer a rare opportunity to get the whole family together and it's the perfect time to get your kids and grandkids involved in giving. One idea is to host group activities that help them engage with and think about the wellbeing of others. Start by creating a real (or even hypothetical) 'budget' that needs to be given away. Everyone has to identify a cause or charities and pitch it to the rest of the family before deciding where to distribute their money. Actual dollars can then be matched or given for the holidays; the possibilities are limitless. Looking for more family-friendly giving ideas? Check out our [Secret to Joyful Giving Guide](#).



### 3 FORMALIZE YOUR GIVING

If you don't have a charitable vehicle but have been giving consistently and expect to give more in the future, there are a few options to explore that can ensure your gifts are more organized, strategic and tax efficient. You can diversify and expand your giving with vehicles like a private foundation or a donor-advised fund that will earmark assets for charitable purposes and potentially provide meaningful tax benefits. Private foundations offer flexibility, control and other [unique advantages](#) that support creative and entrepreneurial philanthropy. Donor-advised funds provide advantages like anonymity and higher tax deductions. You can also incorporate your philanthropic objectives into your will or estate plan and explore planned giving and trusts.

### 4 DON'T FORGET UNCLE SAM

Coordinating your charitable contributions with your tax strategy, estate planning and investment management could result in better outcomes – across all disciplines – and ensure that you get beneficial tax deductions, which in turn allows you to give more. With charitable vehicles like

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private foundations and donor-advised funds, you can maximize your tax savings and may be able to claim a same-year tax deduction.

### 5 KNOW YOUR MINIMUMS

If you have a charitable vehicle with a minimum distribution requirement, make sure you know what it is and how much you have left to disburse so your assets are used for charitable purposes and not penalties. For example, private foundations are required to annually distribute at least 5% of the previous year's average net assets. Qualifying distributions from the foundation include grants to public charities, administrative expenses and certain costs related to carrying out the foundation's charitable purpose, such as a building, computers, and office furniture.

Want more helpful tips for giving all in one place? Check out our [Smart Giving Guide](#), which includes these tips for year-end giving, plus [Every Dollar Counts: How to Evaluate a Nonprofit](#) and the [Secret to Joyful Giving](#).

## ABOUT FOUNDATION SOURCE

Foundation Source is the nation's largest provider of management solutions for private foundations. We empower people and companies to create a better world with their philanthropy through a configurable suite of administrative, compliance, and advisory services complemented by purpose-built foundation management technology and private foundation experts.

We work in concert with financial advisors, legal and accounting professionals, consultants and family offices, as well as directly with individuals, families and corporations to bring philanthropic visions to life. As we celebrate our 20th year of service, Foundation Source supports nearly 2,000 family, corporate and professionally staffed foundations of all sizes and has enabled more than \$7 billion in charitable grants.

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