Year-end Charitable Gifts & Grants

The holiday season is a popular time for giving to the causes that matter most to you. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is your partner in philanthropy, and we are here to help you make the most impact with your year-end giving.

Consider these charitable giving tips to help make your year-end go smoothly:

1. **Donating long-term appreciated securities**—rather than selling the assets and then donating the cash proceeds—is one of the easiest ways for donors to increase their charitable dollars and maximize their impact on the community. If it’s time to rebalance your portfolio, consider a charitable gift with the appreciated positions.  [Learn more...](#)

2. Are you over the age of 70 ½ and do not need the liquidity of your IRA’s required minimum distribution? Consider a **Qualified Charitable Distribution** or a “QCD” as an establishing gift for a designated fund or an area of interest fund at LVCF. We have seen this gift type grow in popularity since its benefits became permanent in 2015 and the standard deduction increased during 2017 tax reform. If you are the right age and have one or more IRAs, a QCD may be a solution to be both charity-generous and tax-thrifty.  [Learn more...](#)

3. To be eligible for a 2019 charitable tax deduction, you may need to initiate certain contributions now. Some assets such as mutual funds and restricted stock take longer to accept and process, so **advanced planning** is required to meet year-end deadlines.

4. With the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’s higher standard deduction, donors can benefit from **grouping multi-year donations into a single tax year**. This is also referred to as donation “bunching.” Donation bunching can also be done in combination with donating appreciated stock. LVCF’s charitable fund menu provides an array of options for donors considering bunching.  [Learn more...](#)

Through creative gift planning at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, you may be able to do more for yourself and for the causes that matter to you.

**How are we different?** LVCF’s funds are not just charitable checking accounts. We provide you with community knowledge and leadership, and expert grantmaking advice. Our mission is to truly connect donors to the causes that matter to them.

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**IN THE NEWS**

**Pinebrook Family Answers Honors LVCF with Friend of the Family Award**

The Community Foundation was presented with The Friend of the Family Award by Pinebrook Family Answers during its annual Rhythm & Wine event.

“The Community Foundation has been a great friend and supporter of Pinebrook for many years,” said William B. Vogler, Ph.D., president and CEO of Pinebrook Family Answers. “Through its Synergy Fund, the Community Foundation has been instrumental helping our organization collaborate with other organizations, grow, and improve efficiencies along the way.”  [More...](#)

**Yeomans Make Gift to Levitt Pavilion**

Chuck and Cindy Yeoman recently made a visit to the Levitt Pavilion Steelstacks to present a gift from the Yeoman Family Fund at LVCF to fund the renovation of the green room and more at the pavilion facility.  [See photos...](#)
Already have a donor-advised fund at LVCF?

Submit your year-end grant recommendations by Wednesday, December 11, to guarantee that a check will be mailed by December 31, subject to due diligence checks.

We will honor any grant recommendation received prior to December 31 as a grant recorded in 2019, but the check may not be mailed until the new year. Are you submitting a recommendation after the 11th and have questions about the dates? Call us to confirm!

Talking Turkey with the Family About Philanthropy

Over the years we have had worked with many donors and their advisors on their place-based philanthropy, often involving multiple generations of a family. It is both fascinating and inspiring to hear family traditions of integrating philanthropy into holiday gatherings to develop intergenerational bonds, to instill empathy, and to teach family values. We found these ideas from the 21/64 advisory group in New York to be a great start to thinking about new traditions for the next generation of philanthropists. Download the guide

Children who help others are more likely to have a broader view of the world than the lives they lead. Connecting with those in need helps young people to fend off entitlement and find an avenue for personal fulfillment. We hope that you’ll be inspired to engage with your family and community during this season of giving and in the new year.

Supporting Estate Planning Education for Professional Advisors

In October, LVCF and the Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley co-hosted the program “Advising Clients Through the Toughest Times of Life,” led by Ken Florian, President of Corgenius. The talk addressed how professional advisors can help clients cope with death, divorce, retirement, empty nest, or other life transitions.

Have you logged in to DonorCentral yet? With a direct connection to our accounting system, DonorCentral will give you online access to your fund’s balance, transaction history, and grant recommendations, all in one convenient place.

Contact Ashton Galasso (ashton@lvcfoundation.org) with questions about your account online.

Home for the Holidays: A Guide for Giving with Kids