



PERSONAL PLANNING NEWSLETTER

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Ending the Year Well

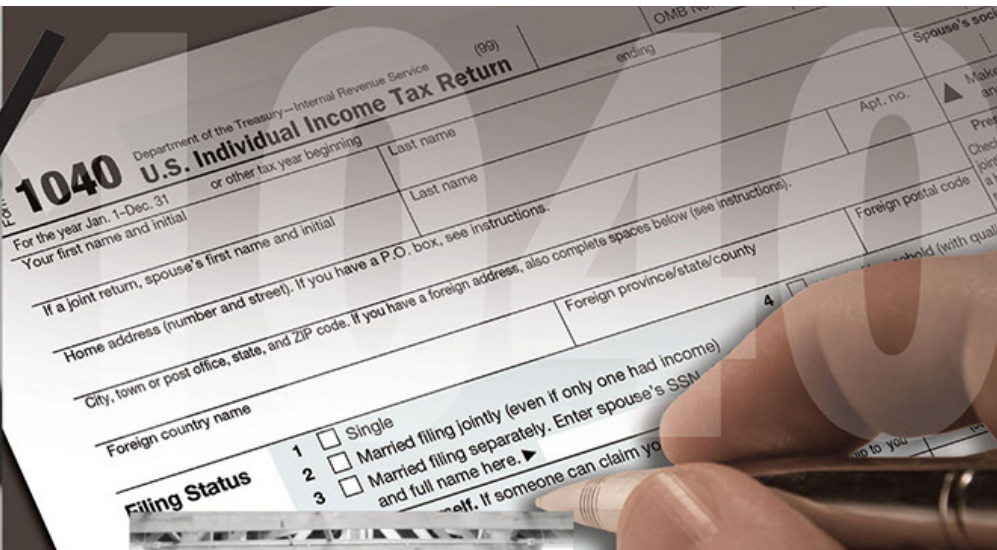
Get a head start on your year-end tax planning.



SIX TAX-SAVING SOLUTIONS FOR THE YEAR END:

1. **Pay Your Mortgage Early** - Make your January mortgage payment in December.
2. **Defer Income** - Defer income or a year-end bonus until next year.
3. **Give to Charity** - Give to your favorite qualified charity.
4. **Manage Your IRA** - If you are required to take a distribution from your IRA, take only the required amount to reduce taxable income.
5. **Balance Stocks** - To offset any capital gains, sell some stock for a loss and rebalance your portfolio.
6. **Gather Deductions** - Make early payments for any deductible expenses.

These ideas are some of the simplest and most effective ways you can reduce your tax bill. Contact us to learn more ways you can save this year by supporting the High Hopes mission.



The end of the year is fast approaching and with it so is your opportunity to reduce your taxes.



TAX-WISE CHARITABLE PLANNING STRATEGIES

There are a number of charitable planning strategies that can help you lower your income and taxes this year. Here are some ways you might shift tax dollars to charitable dollars and support High Hopes.

- ✓ **IRA Charitable Rollover** - Persons age 70 ½ or older can rollover up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a qualified charity like ours. This may lower your income and taxes.
- ✓ **Outright Gift of an Asset** - make a gift of stock, real estate or another asset, avoid paying capital gains tax on the transfer, and receive a tax-saving charitable deduction.
- ✓ **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** - make a tax deductible gift to a DAF, which gives you the ability to make grants to your favorite charities this year and in future years.
- ✓ **Zero-Tax Gift and Sale** - make a gift of part of an investment or property you intend to sell, avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale and receive cash back.

May We Help?

If you would like further information on any of these end-of-year planning strategies, please contact Claire Gadrow, Chief Philanthropy Officer. I welcome the opportunity can help you create a plan that meets your needs and goals.

Do you look forward to your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD)?



ANOTHER SMART USE OF YOUR IRA

While you may initially appreciate the income, as time goes on the higher withdrawal requirements may push you into a higher tax bracket, increasing your taxes.

Congress made the IRA charitable rollover permanent. The rollover law allows taxpayers who are required to withdraw money from their IRAs to give directly to charity. Because the rollover may count against your required minimum distribution (RMD), making an IRA rollover gift to an organization like ours could reduce your income and taxes.

The IRA rollover is a great way for you to help support your favorite causes. While you won't receive an income tax deduction for a rollover gift, you also won't pay any income tax on the transfer.

The transfer only works for IRAs and not other retirement accounts. You may be able to roll over your 401(k) or other plan into an IRA and take advantage of this strategy. Check with your tax advisor or contact Claire Gadrow, Chief Philanthropy Officer, to learn more about how you can use your RMD for charitable intent and lower your taxes.

Here are some of the requirements for making an IRA rollover gift this year.

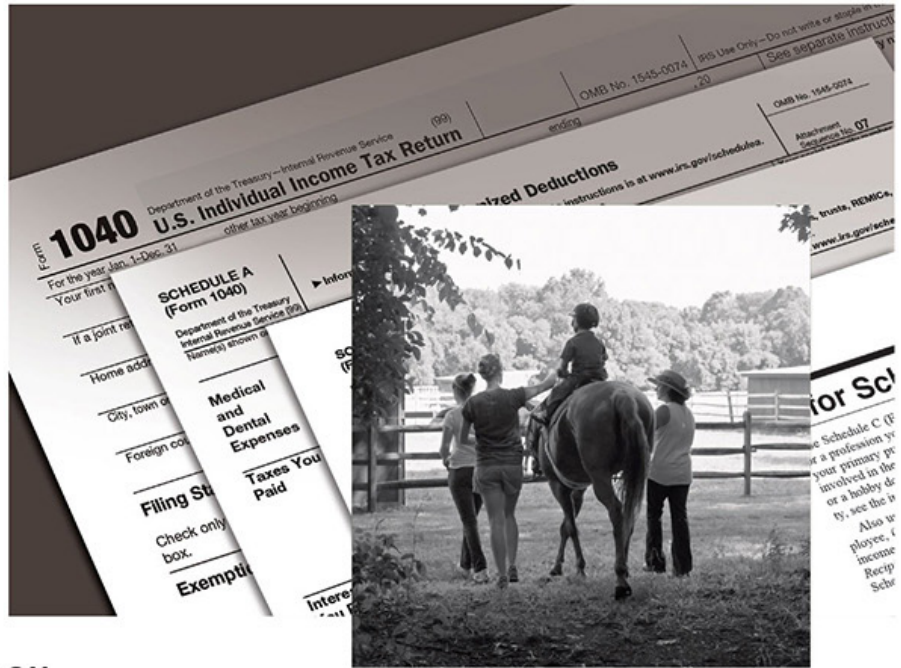
You must be age 70½ or older.

You must transfer money directly from your IRA to a qualified charity.

You can give annually up to \$100,000 from your IRA.



Claire Gadrow
 Chief Philanthropy Officer
 860-434-1974, ext 122
 cgadrow@highhopestr.org
 highhopestrlegacy.org



TAX SAVINGS WORTH A SECOND LOOK

While there are some obvious ways of saving taxes, such as increasing your charitable giving, there are also some subtle ways to maximize your savings and minimize your tax bill. If you own any of these assets, consider these strategies as part of your year-end planning.

If You Have	Consider Doing This
Low-performing stocks that have outlived their usefulness to you.	Update your portfolio by selling stocks that have lost value. Balance losses with gains from other stocks.
Real estate you are tired of holding.	Give that real estate (or part of it) to a qualified charity. You lose the burden of maintaining and paying taxes while gaining income tax advantages.
A business ownership where you wish to reduce your share.	Donate a share of your closely held stock to charity. You receive an income tax deduction and reduce your ownership.
High-performing stocks you wish to sell but that would result in steep capital gains.	Transfer (never sell) your stock to us to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Receive income for life as well as tax benefits.
Provide for your children.	Use almost any asset you have to establish a charitable remainder trust. Your children receive income for life. You receive tax advantages (plus possible estate tax benefits) while supporting a beloved charity.

Many things you might consider a burden can be used to your advantage. Call or email **Claire Gadrow, Chief Philanthropy Officer**, to learn the many ways you can increase your income, save taxes, and benefit the people and causes important to you.