

The Donation

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Tax credits make giving to charity easier,
more profitable than ever

Securing a charity's future has never before been so beneficial for your present. From funds or property, called endowments, which are donated from one individual or group to another, to planned gifts, funds or property donated through estate planning, income tax credits create a two-way street of benefits. Charities, such as the Anne Carlsen Center (ACC), are able to provide services and expert care, while people who donate get a little financial relief.

"This is a way for businesses or individuals to keep their money in North Dakota and benefit many charities," said Anne Carlsen Center Foundation Planned Giving Specialist, Shelley Nannenga.

Increasing the Benefit

A 2007 North Dakota Senate bill increased the amount of money that could be donated to charities, as well as how long that donation had the potential to be a benefit. With this bill, donors who give up to \$25,000 through an endowment or planned gift receive a tax credit beginning the year the gift is given. Also, this tax credit now comes with a longer carryover effect, allowing donors to utilize unused portions of their tax credit for longer periods of time.

"The new law was written to increase planned giving in the state of North Dakota by individuals," said Heartland Trust Company Vice President Neil Jordheim. "The tax credit was increased from 20 percent to 40 percent and the annual limit was doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000, plus the carryover for larger contributions was increased from two years to three years."

Along with these increased donation limits, a new initiative was also put into effect. It allows gifts from businesses, as well as individuals, to qualify for the tax credit. This addition creates countless new opportunities within the state.

"For any business, it is an awesome way of helping their bottom line," said Nannenga. "It is a wonderful way to give and a great way of helping a charity."

Are You Ready?

These tax credits provide many individuals, who previously couldn't afford to donate, the means to become a giver.

"Persons or businesses that were planning on making a gift may consider making a larger gift because the after-tax impact to their own pocketbook has been reduced," Jordheim said. "This new tax credit is customized for individuals that were planning on making a gift someday. The new law encourages them to make the gift now rather than later. It also gives those considering a gift through their estate or will more motivation to include that language in their legal documents."

Planned gifts can be complex and individuals or businesses interested in donating may want to speak with their current financial advisor to determine specifically what they can give. To learn more about ways to donate, or to set up a donation at the Anne Carlsen Center, please contact Shelley Nannenga toll free at (800) 568-5175, ext. 109 or by email at shelley.nannenga@annecenter.org.

The money you give may be used to help provide classroom materials, purchase much-needed medical equipment, or help maintain the Center's adapted pool. However the money is used, you can feel good knowing that only through your generosity can this level of care be made available. When you open your heart, you help individuals with disabilities make a meaningful place for themselves in the world.

You can learn more about tax credits by completing the request form on the inside of the back cover of this issue and sending it to the Anne Carlsen Center in the enclosed envelope.

You'll find additional information about tax credits and methods of donating to the Anne Carlsen Center by going to www.annecenter.org, clicking on the Foundation link, and selecting "Ways to Give" on the left column of the Foundation page.



Mike Evans and his wife, Pat, met with ACC Planned Giving Specialist Shelley Nannenga in December to finalize their gift to the Center.

Fargo family, business receives tax credits through charitable donations

Mike Evans is in an industry dedicated to caring for the individual. He is the owner of Nova Fire Protection in Fargo, N.D.

As a designer, fabricator and installer of sprinkler and fire protection systems, Evans' company was contracted to put in place the system helping guard the Anne Carlsen Center's campus. While putting the system in place, the crew was impressed by the care and facilities offered to individuals with disabilities.

"We started doing sprinkler-construction work for them seven or eight, maybe 10 years ago," said Evans. "I have been out to the Center more than once and that was how I got plugged into what they did. I thought it was pretty noble."

At first, Evans donated to the Anne Carlsen Center as a response through individual ACC mailings that would arrive at his home. But at the end of 2007, he felt he was in a place to give a little bit more. After a discussion with ACC Planned Giving Specialist Shelly Nannenga, he found a new way to give—using an endowment gifts income tax credit.

"When I knew the Anne Carlsen Center qualified for that, I thought it was a good place to do it," said Evans. "It was a win-win for us and for the Anne

Carlsen Center. They got the money and we got the deduction. We felt that was perfect."

"It was a pleasure working with Mike, his wife, and Nova, as we brought this all together," said Nannenga. "It was a great situation for everyone."

With the ease and benefits, both financially and emotionally, of donating through this method of planned giving, Evans hopes others can find similar, if not identical, ways to give to the Center.

"Anybody that has had success should participate in helping out the disadvantaged as much as possible," said Evans. "If you are considering donating to a charity, I think the Anne Carlsen Center, and the kids, are a good place to start. It feels good to see your money at work."

"As the Center continues to grow, there will always be a need for more donations to make sure it stays in good, healthy shape," added Evans.