

..... **A GIFT FOR**
all seasons

If you are 70½ or older and are like most people your age, you are waiting until the end of the year to take the required minimum distribution from your IRA. You have been saving for years by contributing to your retirement, so it may seem unnatural when you are required to withdraw money from your account.

Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to stop the withdrawal requirement, but there is something really great that you can do with your withdrawal. The government allows IRA owners who are 70½ or older to contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a qualified charity, like ours, each year. You do this by asking your IRA custodian to transfer money directly from you IRA to charity, without ever taking the distribution yourself.



**YOU HAVE OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO THE
REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION FOR YOUR IRA**

Have a 401(k) or 403(b)? Ask us how you can make an IRA rollover work for you.

The funds you contribute will count toward your annual required minimum distribution. This gift will not entitle you to take a charitable income tax deduction, but you will not have to pay taxes on the withdrawal.



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Louisiana Heritage

A GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

- Get the most from the new tax law's benefits
- Planned giving spotlight
- A gift for all seasons



GET THE MOST from the new tax law's benefits

When the federal government passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act last year, it lowered taxes this year for almost every taxpayer. The new law reduces tax rates while increasing the standard deduction.

The standard deduction is an alternative to itemizing deductions, such as for mortgage interest, state and local taxes and charitable donations.

The new law almost doubles the standard deduction. The new standard deduction is \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers. This increase gives taxpayers a very nice choice to either itemize their deductions or claim the standard deduction.

With these tax changes, some individuals who itemize in years past may be inclined to take the standard deduction in future years. Regardless of what strategy you employ, you may want to consider some new strategies that can provide you with both tax and non-tax benefits.

STRATEGIES

LIFE INSURANCE GIFT

Donating an old or unneeded life insurance policy can support financial aid for students, research projects, or one of our campus's many special places such as Edith Garland Dupré Library. Transferring ownership of an existing life insurance policy is an affordable charitable gift option with tax benefits that can greatly benefit the university.

MAKE AN OUTRIGHT GIFT OF AN APPRECIATED ASSET TO CHARITY

This strategy may provide income tax and capital gains tax savings and allow you to support the causes that matter to you. This strategy even provides tax benefits to non-itemizers.

GIVE FROM PRE-TAX ASSETS BY MAKING AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT

If you are 70½ or older, this strategy allows you to give up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA rather than take the required minimum distribution. You will not receive a charitable deduction but will avoid tax on the distribution. This strategy works for both itemizers and non-itemizers.

Your specific tax benefits from these strategies will depend on your personal tax situation as well as how you structure your gift. We are happy to talk to you and help your tax advisor find the gift that is right for you.



YOUR DONATIONS COME TO LIFE

UL Lafayette business students and faculty now have access to a state-of-the-art financial lab thanks to a \$2.5 million gift from the Maraist family. The Maraist Financial Services Lab features 12 Bloomberg Terminals that allow users to monitor the finance industry. Darnall, Sikes & Frederick CPA firm, Gene Fortier State Farm, and the Gachassin family also provided financial support for the lab.

Planned Giving Spotlight: Ceci and Michael Neustrom

Once you're a Ragin' Cajun, you're always a Ragin' Cajun. For Ceci and Michael Neustrom, that means leaving a legacy at a place they call home: the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Both Ceci and Michael graduated from the University in 1970. Following graduation, their journey together has been filled with marriage, successful careers, and beautiful children. Now, the Neustroms have decided that leaving a planned gift to the University is the best way for them to ensure that others have the same wonderful experience that they did as students.

Ceci Neustrom actually credits the University for introducing her to her husband. "We wouldn't have ever met had it not been for USL," said Ceci.

The two were set up on a blind date by the football coaches and have been inseparable ever since. Ceci was also very involved as a student participating in several organizations and even being named the 1968 Homecoming Queen. Michael was equally as involved with the University as a member of the football team.

Ceci and Michael have always given back to causes that they believed in. Michael was one of the original

founders of St. Joseph's Diner, an organization that provides meals to those in need. So, when the opportunity arose to give back to the University, they knew that a planned gift would be the best way to make their donation. For Ceci, the benefits are what attracted



Ceci Neustrom and Governor Kathleen Blanco celebrate the inception of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at its Legacy Gala in September 2018.

her to making this type of contribution. "For one, we were interested in longevity - that the institution would still be alive and kicking down the road," said Ceci. The Neustroms also wanted to invest in their areas of interests. Making a planned gift gave them the freedom to decide where their donation would go. But most importantly, the Neustroms wanted their

investment to touch as many people as possible. "No other institution could meet these criteria better than UL Lafayette," said Ceci.

As the University continues to grow, Ceci and Michael Neustrom know that their contribution will help Ragin' Cajuns thrive in the future. The Neustroms' planned gift will benefit both the Department of Criminal Justice and the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center.

With a pledge that will support the LHC Group Athletic Training and Hydrotherapy Center, the Myers Family Foundation is creating a brighter future for student-athletes. The hydrotherapy center includes a 35-foot, 4,800-gallon SwimEx cold plunge tub and a HydroWorx aquatic therapy pool. These amenities allow Ragin' Cajun athletics to provide the best in physical treatment and rehabilitation services for student-athletes.

