

# Giving Wisely

SPRING 2013



## Charitable giving under the new tax laws

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 includes numerous changes to tax laws, including higher income tax rates and the reinstatement of the phase-out of itemized deductions and personal exemptions for high income earners.

Although there are many provisions in the Relief Act, charitable giving opportunities exist for everyone:

- The IRA Charitable Rollover, which was extended through 2013, provides an opportunity to make a non-taxable transfer of up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA account to qualified charities. Since required minimum distributions can be included, it's an excellent way to reduce taxable income and benefit Girl Scouts.

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## Legacy Circle Spotlight Carol Stachwick

For Carol Stachwick, CPA, Girl Scouting is all about adventure. That's why she spent her childhood riding horses, camping and backpacking. It's why she leads her teenage daughter's troop on 50-mile canoeing trips down the Colorado River. And it's why she's decided to leave a bequest to Girl Scouts in her estate plan.

"I want Girl Scouts to always be an adventure... where girls go places they wouldn't otherwise go and try things they wouldn't otherwise try," says Carol, a professor of nonprofit finance at the University of San Diego who also works with nonprofit organizations. She credits the public speaking and improvisation skills she developed as a counselor at Camp Winacka with helping her succeed professionally.

Carol fell in love with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience as a Brownie attending her first resident camp session. "I thought the Winacka counselors were the most awesome women in the world, and I wanted to be one, too," she says. She rode her first horse at camp, igniting a passion that led her to major in equine studies at Cal Poly Pomona and own horses to this day. She continued to spend each summer at camps Winacka and Whispering Oaks as a counselor, then a wrangler.



Carol and her husband, Steve, eventually took charge of her three younger sisters' Girl Scout troop, leading them on excursions as close to home as San Diego's Cuyamaca Mountains and as far away as Zion National Park in Utah. These days, she takes daughter Carly's Senior troop on similar trips.

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Carol, Steve, Shane, and  
Carly Stachwick



Girl Scouts celebrate the grand opening of the relocated North Coastal office.

**Charitable giving under the new tax law**  
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- Gifts of long-term capital gain assets have always been tax-wise and are even more-so for taxpayers in the 39.6% income tax bracket. These taxpayers are now subject to a 20% capital gain rate and the 3.8% additional Medicare tax imposed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. For example, a direct gift of \$100,000 in appreciated securities will provide a charitable income tax deduction of \$100,000 and avoid \$23,800 in taxes.
- Charitable gift annuities offer excellent fixed payments and tax-free income for those wishing to increase cash flow while reducing taxable income.
- The charitable income tax deduction may help to offset some of the additional taxes imposed on high-income households.
- Because the Relief Act included a new, higher-income threshold indexed for inflation at which the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) applies, taxpayers no longer subject to AMT may realize greater benefit from their charitable gifts.
- The top gift and estate tax rate increased from 35% to 40%, the Relief Act maintained the exemption amount at \$5 million, indexed for inflation (\$5.25 million for 2013). Charitable bequests, as well as the use of testamentary charitable trusts, are always excellent ways to reduce taxes and benefit Girl Scouts and/or your family.

You are advised to consult with your tax adviser for the preferred assets to use for gifts, as well as the best ways to give. Please contact Merle Brodie at (619) 610-0804 if you have any questions.

**Legacy Circle Spotlight: CAROL STACHWICK**  
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At 14, Carly has hiked the deserts of Anza Borrego and the forests of Sequoia National Park. Like Carol, she shares her love of the outdoors with others. She earned her Girl Scout Silver Award by organizing a camp for children with autism and their fathers, complete with campfires and hiking.

Carol describes her decision to support Girl Scouts San Diego with a planned gift as a “no-brainer,” noting the importance of helping the organization thrive in the future as well as the present.

“I’m aware that nonprofits incur many unfunded costs. By remembering Girl Scouts San Diego in our trust, I’m taking action to address that situation. Being part of Girl Scouts is part of my life plan.”

Steve and Carol’s bequest will help ensure that local girls always have a place to explore, climb high and blaze new trails.



Consider a charitable gift annuity – the gift that keeps on giving

If you have a minimum of \$25,000 and are looking for a simple, worry-free, lifetime payment for yourself and/or a loved one at a competitive rate of return, consider doing a charitable gift annuity.

Generous tax savings both now and later, as well as the satisfaction that comes from knowing that you will ultimately provide support to Girl Scouts, are other benefits of charitable gift annuities.

Depending on your age, rates can be as high as 9% and the rate is permanent for your lifetime. It will never be reduced, regardless of economic fluctuations.

In addition, a portion of your gift annuity income is tax-free and there is a hefty income tax deduction for participating. Don’t hesitate to learn how this program might benefit you by calling Merle Brodie at (619) 610-0804.

## Local Girl Scout helps women in need as part of Gold Award project



Solenne Wachsmann (second from right), organized and led a group of 8th and 9th grade students in preparing and serving dinner to more than 30 women at Rachel's Women's Center.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Solenne Wachsmann, a senior at Canyon Crest Academy in Carmel Valley, has designed and implemented a service-learning component into the curriculum for students at Congregation Beth Israel. On February 10, for example, she organized and led a group of 8th and 9th grade students in preparing and serving dinner to more than 30 women at Rachel's Women's Center, a safe temporary environment for displaced women, backed by the Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego.

The girls led by Solenne are part of Rosh Hodesh, a program aimed at empowering Jewish adolescent girls through a curriculum designed to strengthen both self-esteem and Jewish identity. The program's theme for the month of February was centered on the formation of healthy interpersonal and community relations with others and understanding abusive relationships, thus making the opportunity to reach out and provide services to others a natural supplement to the girls' curriculum. The evening was a great success, and there is discussion on implementing this experience into the program for next year's group of girls.

Solenne, a member of Girl Scout Troop 1129, has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and earned her Silver Award in 2009. As part of her Gold Award Project, she also worked with the 4th grade students and staff at Congregation Beth Israel. She helped coordinate the first annual Mitzvah Mall, a community service expo to expose the kindergarten through 6th grade students to diverse community organizations in need. This endeavor raised over \$4,000 for 15 deserving organizations.

She and San Diego's other Gold Awardees will be honored on the afternoon of June 8. Guests are welcome; contact Merle Brodie at (619) 610-0804 if you'd like to attend.



## The right planned gift

Planned gifts offer many opportunities for supporting Girl Scouts San Diego and helping young women build skills to excel as leaders of tomorrow. I hope you will consider ensuring the future of Girl Scouting by making a planned gift and becoming a member of our Legacy Circle.

A gift during your lifetime, such as a charitable remainder trust or gift annuity, is a great way to help us succeed while reducing taxes and increasing income for yourself and your loved ones. Plus, you have the pleasure of seeing your generosity in action. Gifts of life insurance offer the ability to make a significant gift at a reduced cost. Bequest and testamentary charitable trusts provide advantages to donors looking for ways to reduce transfer taxes and create legacies that benefit charity as well as family. Cash, appreciated securities, real estate, business interests, retirement plans and tangible property are just some of the assets that can be used to fund your charitable gift.

Please contact me at (619) 610-0804 to discuss the right planned gift for you.

*Merle Brodie*



Merle Brodie  
Gift Planning Officer

# CONSIDER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION!



## Share your expertise!

Sharing your special skill or story with girls could inspire them to dream big and follow in your footsteps. Join women in all fields — from medicine and aerospace to finance and the environment — who host job shadows and participate in career exploration and program events. For details, contact Director of Program Jen Nation at (619) 610-0726.

## Wish list

We can repurpose the gently used goods listed below; you'll receive an itemized receipt for tax purposes. Director of Fund Development Erin Miserlis can share details at (619) 610-0735.

### Computers/electronics

- Digital cameras
- Laptops, iPads or notebook accessories
- LCD projectors
- Instant photo printers, ink, paper
- iPads or laptops with Wi-Fi for event check-in
- Xbox and/or Wii games and consoles

### Art supplies

- Construction paper
- Fabric
- Glue (Tacky brand)
- Leather
- Kilns (for glass and/or clay)
- Markers/Sharpies

- Paint (all kinds and colors)
- Paint brushes

### Camping, cabin and outdoor

- New backpacks
- Telescope
- Camp stove
- Perimeter security fencing
- Gently used golf cart
- Bath mats, towels
- Dutch ovens (large), knives, oven mitts (silicon/fire retardant)
- Flotation devices for sailboats