ChildSavers 100

Safeguarding the emotional health of our children since 1924

Plan Your Giving. Maximize Your Impact.

For many of us, charitable giving is about much more than tax savings. It is a way to support causes we believe in, strengthen our community, and create lasting impact. Thoughtful planning can also help you make your generosity as effective as possible.
Recent changes to federal tax law have affected how donors receive tax benefits from charitable giving.

If you take the standard deduction:
You may now be able to deduct up to **$1,000 in qualifying cash gifts, or $2,000 for married couples filing jointly**, made directly to qualified charitable organizations. This creates a potential new tax benefit for many donors who do not itemize.

If you itemize:
A new **0.5% of adjusted gross income (AGI) threshold** means that only charitable contributions above that amount may be deductible. For example, someone with an AGI of $400,000 would need to give more than $2,000 before contributions above that threshold could potentially qualify for an itemized charitable deduction. High-income taxpayers may also be affected by limits on the value of itemized deductions.
These changes make the **timing and form of your charitable giving** worth considering. Strategies to discuss with your financial or tax advisor include:

- **"Bunching" charitable gifts.** Instead of making the same gift each year, you might combine two, three, or more years of planned giving into one tax year. A donor who normally gives $10,000 annually, for example, might contribute $30,000 in one year. The goal is not necessarily to give more, but to concentrate on giving in a way that may help maximize available deductions.
- **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs).** A DAF can complement a bunching strategy by allowing you to make a larger charitable contribution in one year and recommend grants to organizations such as ChildSavers over time. This can help you maintain consistent support for the causes you care about while potentially maximizing the tax benefit in the year of your contribution.
- **Gifts of appreciated securities.** Rather than selling appreciated stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, or other investments and donating the proceeds, you may be able to give the assets directly. Depending on your individual circumstances, this may help reduce exposure to capital gains taxes while supporting ChildSavers.

- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).** If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA as part of your giving strategy.
- **Legacy and estate gifts.** Including ChildSavers in your will, trust, retirement account, or other estate plans can create a lasting legacy and help ensure children and families have access to critical mental health and child development services for generations to come.

Bunching may be especially worth exploring if you give consistently each year, expect an unusually high-income year, anticipate a major financial event such as the sale of a business or appreciated investment, or have itemized deductions that are close to the standard deduction.

The best giving strategy is one that supports both the causes you care about and your broader financial goals. By planning ahead, your generosity can go even further in helping ChildSavers guide children through life's most critical moments.