

TALENTS

Proving Faithful in Stewardship

Matthew 25:14–30

WHEATON COLLEGE GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER

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After publishing this newsletter for over 20 years, we revisit the significance behind our eponym. In the *Parable of the Talents* in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus addressed the ways we choose to steward the things that have been entrusted to us. Three people received varying amounts from a master: one, two, and five talents. It is estimated that one talent was worth approximately 20 years of wages! So even receiving just a single talent was to be allocated great wealth. But the parable is not about comparison. Instead, it prompts us to actively engage with the resources we have been given – utilizing our time, treasure, and giftedness to serve God for His eternal purposes. Similarly, in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, wizard Gandalf encourages Frodo Baggins by stressing the importance of stewardship: "All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you."

Gift Planning Services walks alongside Wheaton alumni and friends as a "thought partner" in providing information on various planned giving tools and services that may also help reduce taxes. We welcome the opportunity to help you think through ideas as you engage in faithful Kingdom stewardship.



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**WHEATON
COLLEGE**
For Christ & His Kingdom



Gift Planning—a Brief Reintroduction

Our team helps Wheaton supporters give *strategically*—in powerful and tax-advantaged ways that have a lasting impact. This includes a variety of giving tools and services, detailed below. We welcome the opportunity to speak to you about your interest in any of these offerings and run illustrations specific to your situation!

GIVING TOOLS

Lifetime Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)

Thinking about selling an appreciated asset but concerned with capital gains tax? Or maybe you already sold an asset, and you wish to offset taxes and create an income flow to plan for retirement. A lifetime CRUT may fit your needs, providing lifetime income, an income tax deduction, possible capital gains tax reduction, and a significant gift to charity.

Gift Annuities

Hoping to avoid market volatility and receive a steady income flow that will never fluctuate? Gift annuities also offer an income tax deduction and capital gains tax reduction, providing fixed lifetime income and a gift to Wheaton. You can give cash, stock, or an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, and in exchange Wheaton will make fixed payments to one or two annuitants for life.

Testamentary CRUT

Do you want to provide your children with an income flow at your passing, rather than a single lump sum inheritance? Do you want to include Wheaton in your estate plan? A testamentary CRUT allows you to do both! It is funded with

estate assets and pays an income flow to your chosen beneficiaries, typically for up to 20 years. The CRUT remainder will support important Kingdom work at Wheaton College—and possibly other charities, too.

SERVICES

Wheaton College Trust Company

Did you know that Wheaton College has a trust company? In addition to managing charitable trusts and endowments, Wheaton College Trust Company can serve as Executor of a Will and Trustee of a Trust for those who plan to generously support the College through their estates. Naming a professional trust company may be a better choice than assigning these duties to loved ones.

Many trust companies require high estate values and set fees to generate revenue. Conversely, Wheaton College Trust Company’s minimum is lower than most at \$500,000 (excluding personal residence), and fees are set to cover operational costs only. Contact us to learn more about this unique offering.

Estate Review

*Does your current estate plan accomplish your objectives for your loved ones and charity?
Do you understand the taxable nature of your assets?*

Our team offers an Estate Review through which we help you consider these questions. This process can prepare and empower you to be well-informed when you work with your estate planning attorney.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

A DAF can serve various tax reduction and charitable giving objectives. If you are “bunching” giving in a single year to exceed the standard deduction, funding with a large liquidation of highly appreciated assets, or simply coordinating charitable giving in life or through your estate, a DAF can be a great tool.

Blanchard Society

The Blanchard Society is a group of people who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy of support for Wheaton College by including a gift in their estate plan or funding a planned gift like a charitable remainder unitrust or gift annuity. Members receive twice annual devotionals, an invitation to our annual luncheon during Alumni Weekend, bookstore discounts and more. If you have included Wheaton in your plans or intend to, we would love to connect with you and hear about your giving goals.

LIFETIME CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST (CRUT)

A CRUT is a powerful tax reduction giving vehicle. You can fund with cash or assets (such as stock or real estate) that will provide numerous benefits! When funded with appreciated assets, those assets are sold and the proceeds are reinvested in the CRUT, so no capital gains tax is triggered. Thus, the full value can be reinvested. The donor receives an income tax deduction for the charitable value of the funding of the CRUT—and any unused portion of the tax deduction can be carried over for up to 5 more years! The donor also receives lifetime income flow, typically at 5% of the CRUT value. The donor gets to choose Wheaton College and possibly other charities to receive the remainder in the CRUT. Watch this brief video to learn more!



GIVE SMARTER USING TAX-EMBEDDED ASSETS

We enjoy helping people “give smarter,” focusing on charitable giving with **tax-embedded assets**. These include appreciated assets and traditional retirement assets, have a unique taxable nature, and typically involve a taxable event for the owner or inheritor.

1. **Appreciated Assets** have *increased* in value since being acquired
 - Examples: real estate, stocks/securities, business interests
 - Upon a sale, capital gains tax will be due on the gain
2. **Traditional Retirement Assets** are *tax-deferred* and taxed upon withdrawal
 - Examples: non-Roth IRAs, 401Ks, 403Bs
 - If left to loved ones, most inheritors will owe income tax

It is powerful to use these “buckets” for giving, as charities like Wheaton receive them tax-free. If you plan to provide for loved ones and charity, consider giving tax-embedded assets to charity, while leaving other assets to loved ones.

2026 Tax Tidbits

With the 2025 tax season behind us, you may already be planning for 2026. Keep in mind:

- The standard deduction in 2026 is \$16,100 for single filers / married filing separately, \$24,150 for head of household, and \$32,200 for married filing jointly.
- There is an additional \$1,650 deduction for each senior over 65 filing jointly or \$2,050 for single and head of household filers.
- There is a new temporary additional \$6,000 deduction for those 65 and over with a modified adjusted gross income below certain thresholds: \$75,000 for single filers or \$150,000 for joint filers. There is a phase out at certain income levels.
- There is a new charitable deduction for non-itemizers: in 2026, you can deduct up to \$1,000 (single filers) or \$2,000 (married filing jointly) of cash gifts to charity!
- If you have Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your traditional IRA. QCDs fulfill your RMDs and do not count toward taxable income—a benefit for itemizers and non-itemizers alike. You can also fund a gift annuity with QCDs—up to \$55,000 in 2026! You can make QCDs as early as age 70 ½.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Weekend: May 8-10, 2026

- **Blanchard Society Luncheon**
By Invitation: celebrating those who have made an estate commitment—May 8 at 11:30
- **Estate Planning & Tax Reduction Seminar**—May 9 at 1:30

GIFT PLANNING RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Blanchard Society
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)
- Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- Estate Review
- Gift Annuities
- Gift Planning Services Vehicles and Services
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)
- Strategic Giving
- Tax-Advantaged Retirement Account Giving
- Tax-Embedded Assets
- Wheaton College Trust Company
- Things to Consider Before Meeting with Your Attorney



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