Are you “tax-smart” about your charitable giving?

Generally speaking, the types of gifts that make the most sense tax-wise during your lifetime make for the poorest charitable gifts through your estate and visa-versa. For instance, giving cash (writing a check) to charity saves you on your income taxes if you itemize deductions, but at your death, there is no income tax savings realized when you direct some of your cash and savings to charity through your estate. However, there are a couple of exceptions.

Traditional Individual Retirement Arrangement accounts (IRAs) make tax-smart gifts to charity at your death since these funds, when passed on to heirs through your estate, receive a step up in basis. In other words, the “cost” to them is the value on your date of death so if they sold it immediately, they would owe no capital gains tax. However, appreciated assets make excellent current gifts to charity since you would transfer (give) the appreciated assets to charity before you sell them and then, when the charity sells the asset, no capital gains tax is owed. With the financial markets up again in 2014, do you have appreciated assets that you might use to make your 2014 charitable giving?

Questions on how you might use a planned or deferred gift to benefit Goshen College? Please contact me at rogera@goshen.edu or call me at (574) 535-7797, toll-free 1-800-348-7422.

– Roger A. Nafziger, Director of Gift Planning

Pioneer in women’s sports establishes athletic scholarship

It takes a lot of energy to keep up with Ruth Gunden ’52, even at age 83. That energy drove Gunden’s 40-year Goshen College career, which left a legacy filled with milestones.

In 1958, she founded the women’s basketball team, the first intercollegiate women’s athletic team at GC. In 1971, in Jamaica, Gunden became the first woman to lead a Study-Service Term (SST) unit. In 1977, she became the first female chairperson of the physical education department.

In 2014, Gunden decided to pave the way for others by offering a scholarship for female athletes. She believes that athletics are crucial to the success of the college, and hopes the Ruth E. Gunden Athletic Scholarship will help recruit high-quality student athletes who will boost the competitiveness of GC teams.

“I don’t think Goshen College would be here if we didn’t have sports for men and women to play,” Gunden said.

Gunden’s coaching career

Gunden received her master’s degree (1956) and Ph.D. (1967) in physical education from the University of Iowa. She called the university a “hotbed for women in sports” that gave her a new perspective on gender equality in athletics.

Shortly after she began teaching physical education at Goshen College in 1953, she proposed a plan to form an intercollegiate women’s basketball team. This was nearly 20 years before the federal law known as Title IX mandated equality for women’s sports in educational institutions.

Gunden went to the president of Goshen College, Paul Mininger, and stated her...
For Roman and Shirley Gingerich, life was about risk, commitment and sports

In the early 1940s, many people in the Mennonite Church believed that sports would allow worldly ideals like pride and aggression to leak into campus culture. Roman and Shirley Gingerich thought otherwise.

Roman and Shirley met as students at Goshen College. Though they both grew up in Kalona, Iowa, the two hadn’t known each other before studying at GC. Shirley was an elementary education major, and was introverted as Roman was extroverted. Even so, they bonded over a love of sports and mutual homesickness for their home state.

The couple married soon after graduation. Roman was asked to stay at the college to teach in the athletics department. His goal, however, was to bring competitive sports to Goshen College.

Roman, willing to take a risk, eventually convinced both the college and Mennonite Church to allow competitive team sports at Goshen College.

After World War II, in which Roman served in Puerto Rico as a conscientious objector, the family settled into a brick two-story home with a five-acre lot on College Avenue. While coaching basketball, baseball, track, tennis, intramural flag football, badminton and archery, Roman also decided to start a small-scale turkey farm in his backyard. Eventually, he purchased a farm in east Goshen and decided to sell chicken eggs.

After Roman retired in 1986, two alumni couples established a $27,500 challenge fund to pay tribute to Roman’s years of dedicated service to GC. The challenge was surpassed and totaled over $60,000. The scholarship is awarded to male athletes who demonstrate exemplary leadership and academic success, and priority is given to students with a Mennonite background.

In 2014, Roman and Shirley’s children added to the fund and revised original guidelines to include Shirley’s name in the title due to her significant contributions.

“I was never sorry for anything that we gave to the college,” said Shirley. “Even though we could hardly afford it sometimes, it didn’t hurt us at all.”

Today, Gingerich is known as the third-winningest basketball coach in Goshen College history. He passed away on Jan. 15, 1989, at the age of 69.

“It’s because of pioneers like Roman and Shirley that Goshen is what it is today,” said Yoder.

One of Roman’s recruits, Ed Yoder ’56, fondly remembers his coach as both a friend and a supporter.

“Roman was a risk taker, he took chances,” said Yoder. “Though his teams played to win, they were also taught fairness.”

Students knew Roman for his outgoing personality and inviting presence. One thing was certain: Roman would do anything to see his students succeed.

Everyone in the family pitched in to aid the new GC athletics program. Shirley prepared meals for the teams, the family offered many athletes free room and board, their children made fresh-squeezed orange juice so the players would have enough vitamin C, and Roman used his own tractor to mow the athletic fields.

Students know Roman for his outgoing personality and inviting presence. One thing was certain: Roman would do anything to see his students succeed.

“The team was a microcosm of the community,” said Yoder. “We were risk-takers, we worked hard, and we had a lot of fun.”

“We always had money to pay our bills, but not much to pay for college tuition.”

In 1965 to 1981, compiling a record of 123 wins and only 54 losses: a .693 winning percentage.

In addition to basketball, Gunden coached the women’s tennis and volleyball teams during her career at Goshen College. She oversaw and promoted women’s sports through many statewide and national leadership roles, including as the president of the Hoosier Conference for Women’s Sports.

“Women and the charter commissioner for the Midwest Assistance for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.”

“Like to see everybody have the chance to play a sport.”

Gunden said. “You get to know other people and use your energy in a good way.”

— By Kate Yoder ’15

If you’d like to contribute to any scholarship funds mentioned in this newsletter, you can send your gift to Goshen College with a note regarding the scholarship you’d like to apply it toward. Visit www.goshen.edu/give for more information or to give online.