Message from Estate and Trust Services

Year-End Charitable Giving to Creighton

The end of the year traditionally is the time that many of Creighton’s alumni and friends solidify their financial and charitable giving plans. The following guidelines are offered to assist you as you contemplate making a year-end gift to Creighton.

Remember, only gifts completed by December 31 can be used to reduce your taxes due on April 15, 2010. If you mail your year-end gift in the form of a check to Creighton, your gift is complete as of the date of the postmark. If you use a credit card, your gift is complete when the transaction is authorized by your bank. If you mail your signed charge authorization, make sure your letter is postmarked no later than December 14. After that date, please contact the Office of Development at 402.280.1143 or 800.334.8794, or make your gift online at www.creighton.edu/development.

Gifts of stock and mutual funds offer benefits to you and to the University. Gifts of securities owned for more than one year entitle you to deduct fair market value without having to report the capital gains you would have realized if you had sold the investment. If stock you own has decreased in value from your original purchase price, you may want to consider selling it and gifting the net proceeds. That way, you may be able to claim both a loss on the stock and a charitable contribution deduction.

For securities electronically transferred from your account to Creighton’s, your gift is complete and valued on the date it reaches the University’s account. Gifts of stock certificates hand-delivered to Creighton are complete the day they are delivered; stock certificates and necessary stock powers sent by mail are complete as of the date of the postmark. If you ask a transfer agent to have shares you own re-registered in Creighton’s name, the gift is not complete until the re-registration is finalized on the corporation’s records. Because Creighton may be required to open a new account with the fund, gifts of mutual fund shares may take several weeks to transfer, so please plan ahead and allow extra time.

We would be happy to assist you with the necessary forms as well as guidance on how to transfer stock and mutual funds, so please call the Estate and Trust Services office at 402.280.1143 or 800.334.8794.

2009 is the final year for IRA owners age 70½ or older to meet their charitable goals by making gifts directly from IRAs. These direct transfers from IRAs can be independent of the 50 percent limitation on charitable cash gifts, and they are not subject to the 2 percent reduction rule for itemized deductions. By taking advantage of this opportunity, you can demonstrate your faith in Creighton University’s mission and secure your legacy by creating a perpetual endowment or supporting the school or college of your choice.

If you are interested in converting cash, securities or land into a life-income arrangement with Creighton, please call or write for a personalized proposal. Charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities may be ideal for those who want to explore ways to increase their annual income, realize income tax benefits in 2009 and also make a deferred gift to the University.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Creighton University, thank you for your dynamic spirit of philanthropy and enthusiastic participation in the Willing to Lead campaign. The Office of Estate and Trust Services is here to assist you in any way we can. Please contact us at 402.280.1143 or 800.334.8794, by e-mail at giftplanning@creighton.edu or visit us on the web at http://giftplanning.creighton.edu.

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