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Ideas for Giving and Moving Forward in 2020

As we deal with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Lamar University is focused on ensuring that our students can continue their academic pursuits. Our students face unprecedented challenges and financial difficulties that threaten to derail their journey. In the midst of all that is going on, many of our friends and supporters are looking forward to the future when they can enjoy community with friends and resume their regular activities.

In response to the current situation, Congress recently enacted several tax law changes. We have created this page to offer resources to help you with your tax planning and to offer some ideas for you to consider if you are thinking about making a gift in support of our mission during this time.

CARES Act

This recently passed law includes several charitable tax provisions to encourage giving.

These include:

- A new deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300, to reduce your tax liability.
- An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income). If you make a gift you will be able to deduct more this year.

Donor Advised Funds

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and wish to help us this year, you can make a gift from your DAF to support our work without affecting your personal financial security.

Charitable Gift Annuity

If you are concerned about your financial security given the ups and downs of the stock market, you may want to consider making a gift to fund a charitable gift annuity. You might be surprised by the benefits. You can exchange your low-performing stock, CDs or cash for guaranteed, lifetime fixed payments. If you make a gift of an appreciated asset, you will not have to pay capital gains when you fund the annuity. You may also benefit from a tax deduction this year and a portion of your payments could be tax-free.

Cardinal Emergency Fund

Lamar University alumni and friends have supported our students for nearly 100 years, so it is no surprise that many are now asking what they can do to help our students facing these dramatic challenges. For those able to provide assistance, we suggest a gift to support the Cardinal Emergency Fund. Lamar University established the Cardinal Emergency Fund three years ago to support our students facing disruptions in their academic endeavors. This fund will help our students with the current issues they are facing, including housing and food insecurity, travel expenses, technology costs associated with digital learning, and other financial challenges. Please visit lamar.edu/give.



SECURE Act

In December, Congress passed the SECURE Act, limiting stretch payments to IRA beneficiaries to 10 years. If you planned to benefit your children with your IRA, your heirs will now pay higher taxes on the inheritance they receive from you. When you revisit your estate plan, consider funding a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust with your IRA balance. This plan can provide lifetime payments to your heirs and spread out the taxes on their inheritance.