Making a Real Impact with Real Estate

Despite fluctuations in the real estate market, owning real estate has been a wonderful investment over the years. But, if your vacation home, vacant lot, farm, or office building has lost its usefulness or has become expensive or cumbersome to maintain, your property could make an excellent gift in support of the school or program of your choice at the University of Virginia.

What Are My Options for Donating Real Estate?

**MAKE AN OUTRIGHT GIFT**

If you give your real estate outright to the University, you will be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the real estate. You will avoid the capital gains tax you would have had to pay if you had sold the property.

A generous gift of real estate can help the University uphold its high standards of honor and academic rigor, offer an outstanding student experience and provide opportunities for public service.

**EXAMPLE:**

**AN OUTRIGHT GIFT**

Sam wants to make a gift to support UVA but many of his assets are illiquid. The undeveloped land he bought several years ago for $10,000 was recently appraised for $100,000.

If Sam sells the land himself, he will owe $13,500 in capital gains tax and pay the expenses of sale; but if he gives the land to UVA, he will not recognize any capital gain, will be eligible for an income tax deduction for the land’s full $100,000 fair market value, and will have removed the value of the property from his estate. Most importantly, Sam will have made a meaningful contribution to his designated school or program at the University.

**FUND A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST**

Real estate can be used to fund a special kind of trust called a “Flip” Charitable Remainder Unitrust (“Flip CRUT”). A “Flip CRUT” document is drafted and your property is transferred to the trust. Once the property is sold, the trust will provide you with annual payments for the rest of your life or for a term of up to 20 years. Prior to the sale, any income the property may generate will be distributed to the income beneficiary from the CRUT. Payments from the trust are based on a set percentage between 5% and 7% of the total trust value each year. These payments begin on January 1 of the year following the sale of the property. In addition,
you will be eligible for an immediate income tax deduction.

At the end of the trust term, the remaining assets will pass to the University to be used for the purposes you designate. You will also have removed the assets from your estate, eliminating any estate tax which may otherwise be due.

**MAKE A GIFT THROUGH YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST**

Some of the earliest gifts to the University have been gifts of real estate given through wills and living trusts. Designating the University a beneficiary of a gift of real estate in your will could save your estate thousands of dollars in taxes. Your gift of real estate may be designated for the University’s general use or for support of any of the 11 University schools or numerous programs. We encourage you to let us know about your gift. Sharing this information helps the University fully understand the vision behind your intentions and ensures that there is a plan in place for implementing them.

**GIVE THE REMAINDER INTEREST IN YOUR HOME—AND RETAIN THE RIGHT TO LIVE THERE**

If you want to receive a current income tax deduction for the gift of your home to the University, but you would like to continue living there for the rest of your life, you could give a “remainder interest” in your home and retain a “life estate” for yourself. You will be eligible for a current income tax deduction based on the value of the remainder interest you have given, and you will retain the right to live in and maintain your home for the rest of your life.

**GIVE A FRACTIONAL INTEREST**

On a case by case basis, the University may accept a gift of a fractional interest in real estate. You will be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction equal to the appraised value of the interest you transfer.

**The Cornerstone Society—Letting Us Say Thank You**

On October 6, 1817, President James Monroe and former Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison gathered at a ceremony to lay the cornerstone of Pavilion VII, the first structure at the University of Virginia. Just as this cornerstone provided the foundation for the University’s first building, the Cornerstone Society is laying the groundwork for UVA’s achievements in its third century. The Cornerstone Society is the community of alumni, parents, and friends who have made planned gifts to the University through wills, living trusts, or retirement plan assets; gifts of life insurance; charitable gift annuities; and charitable remainder trusts or lead trusts.

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**How to Contact Us**

**call** 434-924-7306 or 800-688-9882 (toll free)
**email** giftplanning@virginia.edu
**web** virginia.edu/giftplanning

The Office of Gift Planning mailing address is PO Box 400807, Charlottesville VA 22904-4807.

The University of Virginia does not provide legal or tax advice. We recommend that you seek your own legal and tax advice in connection with gift and planning matters. To ensure compliance with certain IRS requirements, we disclose to you that this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding tax-related penalties.