End of the Year Gift Planning

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End of the Year Gift Planning: Three Options

1. At the time of this writing, the market has been extremely volatile. Many of our donors hold stock that has appreciated over a very short time. Consider making a gift using **appreciated stock** that you have held for more than a year, especially those with the highest appreciation. You can receive a charitable income tax deduction for the value of the stock and avoid capital gains tax when the stock is sold. The same is true for real estate holdings.
2. Appreciated assets can be donated outright to Habitat LA to use now, or may be deferred while paying you an income for life. When contributed to a **Charitable Trust**, appreciated assets such as stock or real estate earn an income tax deduction. Capital gain tax is avoided when the asset is sold allowing for full investment of the sale proceeds. This usually results in higher income payments to our donors.
3. Ask about our **Charitable Gift Annuity**, a gift arrangement that pays a guaranteed fixed amount of income for life to our donors. It offers higher rates than most investments. For example, an individual over the age of 70 can receive income rates of 5.1% and higher. The gift annuity earns an income tax deduction, a welcome relief during periods of extreme fluctuations in the market. And, a portion of the income is tax free. We will be happy to provide one or more personalized illustrations to assist you and your advisor(s).

Before making an end of the year gift, do some planning in the weeks ahead. Talk with your tax advisor. Estimate your income and tax liability. To benefit from a charitable gift for 2014, the gift needs to be made before December 31.

For more information about how you can personally benefit from making a gift to Habitat LA feel free to contact Jennifer M. Wise, Vice President of Resource Development, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, 8739 Artesia Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706, or call (424) 246-3627, or Email jwise@habitatla.org.