

Donate to Charity and Benefit LOW



By Sam Hall, FLOW Communications Director

There's still time to reduce your 2016 federal tax bill while benefiting Lake of the Woods in the process.

That's the message from Friends of Lake of the Woods (FLOW), an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the LOW community. But don't wait. The December 31 deadline is just around the corner.

If you have an IRA and are 70-1/2 or older, one option is to give all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) to charity. While you can't take a charitable deduction for this contribution, no taxes are due on the amount transferred to charity. Furthermore, keeping the money out of your adjusted gross income might be of benefit. In considering this option, it is important to have the check made out to the charity, not to you. Another option for consideration is the donation of appreciated stock.

If you donate stock that has appreciated in value since you bought it more than a year ago, and if you itemize deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. And You'll also avoid capital gains taxes on the stock's increase in value.

As with all tax decisions and considerations, FLOW recommends that you contact your tax advisor or brokerage firm concerning procedures for making charitable contributions. Also, you are urged to contact FLOW to

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learn how your contribution can benefit LOW. Call Jim at 972-3222 or visit FriendsofLOW.org