DISCUSSING CHARITABLE GIVING WITH CLIENTS

EVERYONE WINS WHEN THE CONVERSATION TURNS TO PHILANTHROPY

In a 2018 survey by the U.S. Trust, more than 70% of advisors said talking with their clients about philanthropy helps them deepen their relationships and grow their business. And for good reason: Clients rely on you to help them make sound personal and financial decisions, and charitable giving is no exception. By starting a conversation about your clients’ values and goals, you can build a meaningful relationship that will last for generations.

IDEAL SITUATIONS TO DISCUSS CHARITABLE GIVING WITH YOUR CLIENTS:

1. When they want to leave a legacy
   You already know including a charitable provision in your client's estate plan can provide significant tax advantages, but it can also help them create a permanent legacy. Your client's bequest can establish a fund that will support their favorite causes in their name forever. Akron Community Foundation can help your client identify their charitable goals and maximize the tax benefits of their bequest.

2. When you’re working on year-end tax planning
   If you have a client facing a large tax liability after receiving a bonus or generating extraordinary profits in a business, charitable giving can help offset their tax burden. By establishing a donor-advised fund at Akron Community Foundation, your client can receive an immediate tax deduction while taking their time deciding which causes to support.

3. When they have highly appreciated assets
   Clients who have highly appreciated stocks or assets can get a double benefit by donating the appreciated assets to charity. Not only do they receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value, but they also avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale.

4. When they want to retire comfortably
   If your client is not producing sufficient income from their appreciated assets, a charitable gift annuity or charitable unitrust can be a good solution. These planned giving options can provide your client with a secure stream of income in retirement while helping them achieve their charitable goals.

5. When they have substantial IRA/401(k) assets
   Clients can often maximize the amount they leave to both their family and their favorite charities by making tax-smart estate plans. For example, it is usually more advantageous for a donor to give retirement assets to charity and other assets to their family, as taxes often reduce the value of retirement assets left to an heir.

6. When they’re selling a business
   Does your client own highly appreciated stock in a company that is about to be acquired? Akron Community Foundation can work with you to structure a charitable gift that will help your client reduce capital gains tax and maximize the impact to their favorite charitable causes.

7. When they want or need an alternative to a private foundation
   Many clients do not have the substantial resources needed to start a private foundation, or they lack the time to oversee its administration. Akron Community Foundation can help you and your clients consider simpler, more cost-efficient alternatives to a private foundation, such as a donor-advised fund.

8. When they are actively involved with a particular charity
   As a trusted advisor to your clients, you’re familiar with their goals and priorities. If you know they are passionate about a particular cause or nonprofit, ask if they want to continue their support after their lifetime. By adding simple language in their will, you can help your clients create a charitable fund that will support their favorite causes long after they’re gone.

LEARN MORE
Contact Laura Fink, director of development and professional advisor relations, at 330-436-5611 or lfink@akroncf.org.