

Philanthropy: It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint



As 2025 continues to deliver twists and turns, it's important to keep talking about philanthropy. Charitable giving is a vital strategy for your clients, even in times of economic uncertainty. Here are three trends to watch as you guide your clients through an unpredictable era and encourage them to look beyond the horizon.

Your clients still want to give

While overall giving may [dip](#) during economic downturns, most of your philanthropic clients will continue to support their favorite charities. Indeed, giving often [rebounds](#) quickly alongside economic recovery. Donor-advised funds, in particular, have shown resilience

and even growth during economic shocks, providing a stable source of support for nonprofits and a flexible tool for your clients. This support is crucial because economic upheaval often increases community need, which in turn creates more demand for nonprofits' services. Often, as was the case during the [pandemic](#), donors rise to the occasion. By working with the community foundation, your clients can stay close to the tangible, local impact of their giving.

Legislation is still percolating

At the moment, key provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) are set to expire at the end of 2025, potentially impacting the charitable strategies you recommend to clients. Notably, though, on February 13, 2025, lawmakers in both the House and Senate introduced the [Death Tax Repeal Act of 2025](#), aiming to permanently eliminate the federal estate tax and the federal generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax. Needless to say, if this act becomes law, the landscape of tax planning will change dramatically. On a happy note, under recently-proposed [legislation](#), clients over the age of 70 ½ would be able to make Qualified Charitable Distributions to donor-advised funds at the community foundation. Under current law, eligible fund recipients of QCDs are limited to designated, field-of-interest, unrestricted, and similar funds.

Focus on the future

Some of your clients may be wondering just how much they can truly accomplish through philanthropy, especially right now. The answer is a lot. Sometimes called "[big bet philanthropy](#)," strategies to leverage charitable dollars to tackle systemic social issues are becoming more popular. "Long-haul" initiatives require sustained commitment, collaboration, and capacity-building among both donors and the nonprofit organizations they support. Thanks to its mission to connect donors to community needs, the Community Foundation is in a unique position to work with your clients who want to pursue this form of charitable giving.

Please reach out to our team at the Chester County Community Foundation anytime. Even during economic upheaval, charitable giving remains a powerful tool for tax planning and durable community impact. Thank you for your continued work to help your clients maximize their positive influence on our community.

For more information, contact the Chester County Community Foundation:

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The team at the Chester County Community Foundation is a resource and sounding board as you serve your philanthropic clients. We understand the charitable side of the equation and are happy to serve as a secondary source as you manage the primary relationship with your clients. This newsletter is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or financial planning advice.