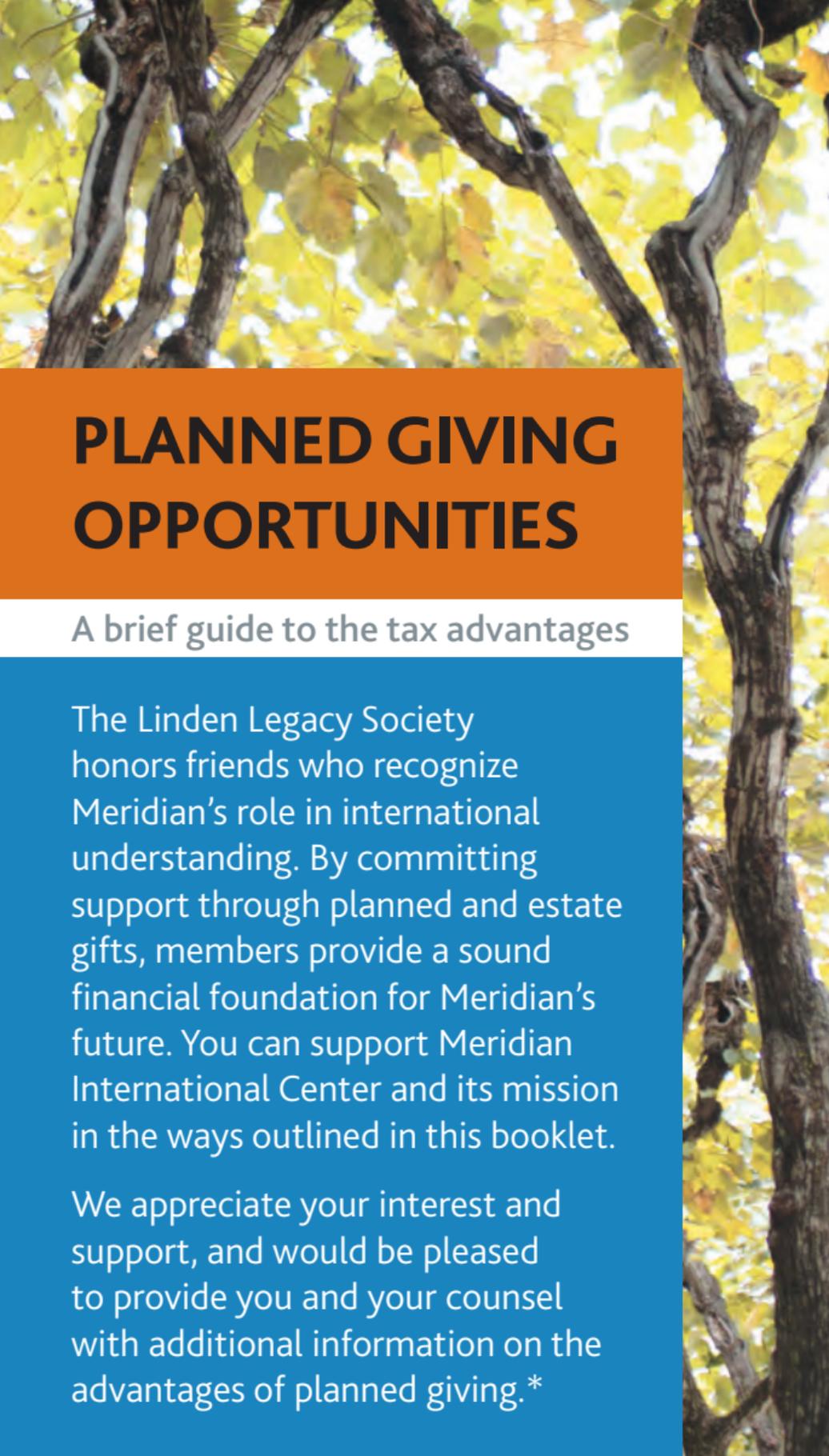


LINDEN LEGACY SOCIETY AT MERIDIAN





PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

A brief guide to the tax advantages

The Linden Legacy Society honors friends who recognize Meridian's role in international understanding. By committing support through planned and estate gifts, members provide a sound financial foundation for Meridian's future. You can support Meridian International Center and its mission in the ways outlined in this booklet.

We appreciate your interest and support, and would be pleased to provide you and your counsel with additional information on the advantages of planned giving.*



If you purchased some stock many years ago for only \$1,000, and it is now worth \$10,000, an outright gift of stock to us would result in a charitable contribution deduction of \$10,000. In addition, there is no tax on the \$9,000 appreciation.

Make sure you have owned the stock for a “long-term” period of time (this generally means that you have held the stock for more than one year) to qualify for these significant tax advantages. Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible – up to a maximum of 30% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income for this year is \$100,000, up to \$30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other property gifts may generally be deducted this year. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

Example:



Gifts of Cash

If you itemize, you can lower your income taxes simply by writing us a check. Gifts of cash are fully deductible – up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income for this year is \$50,000, up to \$25,000 of charitable gifts may be deducted this year. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

If you own stock, it is often more tax-wise to contribute stock than cash. This is because a gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock.

Charitable lead trusts are essentially the reverse of the life income gifts described on the next page. The income from the trust is first paid to us; the charity's interest leads the way (hence the name of the trust). With this trust, you transfer assets to a trustee who makes payments to us for a specified number of years, after which time the assets are transferred to your heirs. The charitable lead trust allows you to pass assets on to your children and grandchildren either completely free or substantially free of all estate and gift taxes! It can make good sense for anyone in the top estate and gift tax brackets.



Suppose Mrs. Jones, age 70, purchased some stock many years ago for \$10,000 and that the stock is now worth \$100,000. But, she receives only \$2,000 per year in dividends, or a 2% yield. By transferring the stock to a charitable remainder trust and specifying that she wanted a 6% return for life, she could:

1. Triple her annual income (from \$2,000 to \$6,000);
2. Avoid the capital gains taxes she would otherwise incur on a sale of the stock; and
3. Be entitled to a charitable contribution deduction of approximately \$47,000. (The amount of the deduction depends upon the age of the donor, the rate of return specified in the trust, the size of the gift, and other factors.)

Example:



Gifts of Life Insurance

A gift of life insurance can provide a significant charitable deduction. You could purchase a new policy or donate a policy that you currently own but no longer need. To receive a deduction, designate us as both the owner and beneficiary of the life insurance policy. Check with your insurance agent for the details.

Life income gifts allow you to increase your income, receive a charitable contribution deduction and avoid capital gains taxes. If you own stock that is paying you low dividends, maybe 2% or 3%, a "life-income" gift may be an appropriate gift. You could transfer the stock to us and establish a "charitable remainder unitrust" or "charitable remainder annuity trust" that would provide you with a 5% or greater annual return. This income would be paid to you and/or a loved one for life, after which the assets would be distributed outright to us. Through such an arrangement, you would be increasing your income and making a meaningful (and tax-deductible) contribution to us at the same time.

We can be named as a beneficiary in your will in any one of a number of simple ways. For example, an outright gift – either a designated dollar amount or percentage of your estate – could be specified. Or, you may wish to provide for a contingent bequest or a remainder interest. You can easily add us to your will through an amendment to your will called a codicil; thus your entire will does not have to be redrafted.

Other planned gifts, including property and real estate, are accepted when suitable for both the organization and the donor. Please contact Meridian at merdevelopment@meridian.org or 202.939.5524 to discuss these options.

Your gift can be unrestricted or can be allocated to one of our restricted funds:

Preserving Our Architectural Heritage

Meridian's two historic buildings - Meridian House and White-Meyer House - are surrounded by gardens, forming a city block of unusual historic and architectural interest. Our campus is the residential jewel of John Russell Pope, who also designed the Jefferson Memorial, the National Gallery of Art and the National Archives. As part of our Meridian at 50 campaign, we seek to preserve our treasured campus while making them as energy efficient as possible.

Arts for Cultural Diplomacy Fund

Through art exhibitions, arts education, and additional educational outreach programs, Meridian strives to enlighten, inform, and inspire people to take an interest in the world around them. Over many years, Meridian has come to appreciate the exchange of art and culture as a powerful tool of cultural diplomacy.

Global Engagement Fund

Our programmatic initiatives provide our audiences with information on international issues that is critical to life in the 21st century. Through seminars, lectures, special dinners, film series, and other activities, we convene a wide variety of thought leaders from around the globe.

To learn more about planned gifts, please contact us at 202.939.5524 or merdevelopment@meridian.org



Meridian strengthens international understanding through the exchange of ideas, people, and culture.

www.meridian.org

Meridian is... a legacy for the future

Meridian International Center is a global leadership organization that strengthens international understanding through the exchange of ideas, people, and culture. For more than 50 years, Meridian has been in the forefront of public diplomacy through its leadership exchanges, cultural activities, and programming. From the first grant awarded by the Ford Foundation to our current roster of supporters, philanthropy has played an important role in Meridian's growth and expansion.

*A brochure cannot tell you everything you need to know about planned giving and which method would be the most advantageous for your particular financial and estate planning situation. Check with your attorney, accountant, or other tax advisor for additional information on how these general rules apply to your situation.

A gift to Meridian can help you maximize the impact of your philanthropy and secure important tax advantages and other benefits for you and your family. Although we cannot offer financial or legal advice, we will be happy to assist you in any way that we can.