

Extension Tip of the Week

Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! Gifts large and small are important. Every day individuals in Iowa communities benefit from the gifts that nonprofit charitable organizations give to our communities. In life, most people require some kind of assistance, whether it's physical, financial or spiritual. Perhaps a local church congregation or food bank supplied meals during a tough time. Maybe you were given a scholarship that made the dream of college possible. You or a loved one may have been shown especially compassionate care during an illness or injury.

Charitable organizations need financial assistance to continue their work. By gifting, you help organizations that are making an important difference in your community. What better way to thank the people or organizations that have had an impact on your life. Depending on the current tax laws, leaving a gift to charity in your will may reduce the estate tax burden on your heirs. You should consult with a financial advisor or attorney to learn how giving may actually benefit your family after you're gone.

Explore possibilities of local organizations that exist in your community who could use your help. As one example, the Community Foundation of Greater Plymouth County was established in April 2005 to help local citizens have a way to leave a philanthropic gift. There are many ways to make a donation. Explore these possibilities more in depth by conferring with a financial advisor or visit the [Community Foundation of Greater Plymouth County](http://locator.iowacommunityfoundations.org/page11020.cfm) website at: <http://locator.iowacommunityfoundations.org/page11020.cfm> or [Leave an Iowa Legacy](http://www.leavealegacyiowa.org/index.html) website at <http://www.leavealegacyiowa.org/index.html> .

