

POPULATION CONNECTION

*Financial and Gift Planning Ideas
for Our Friends*

2021, VOL. 2

USING YOUR IRA TO SUPPORT POPULATION CONNECTION

Spring is a good time to review important financial decisions, such as the charitable gifts you want to make in 2021.

Giving careful thought to how you make your gifts can be beneficial to you and the charities you support. In addition to the personal satisfaction that comes from giving, you might also realize tax benefits.

Make a meaningful gift

If you are age 70½ or older, you can make charitable gifts, called qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), directly from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) using funds that might otherwise be taxed when withdrawn (up to a total of \$100,000 per individual per year; \$200,000 per couple with separate IRAs).

Because most funds withdrawn from IRAs are considered to be income, your total taxable income is increased, pushing you into a higher tax bracket. Distributions directly to Population Connection from your IRA will not, however, be included in your taxable income whether or not you normally itemize your charitable gifts and other deductible expenses.

Such gifts can also count toward all or part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). Even though most RMDs now start at age 72, you can still make charitable gifts from your IRA starting at age 70½.

It's not too early

If you are interested in making an IRA gift to Population Connection this year, ask your IRA custodian for a form to arrange for a QCD. For more information, please contact us.

GIVING TO POPULATION CONNECTION THROUGH YOUR IRA

- You will not owe taxes on the withdrawal, while the amounts given still count toward your required minimum distribution amount.
- Some taxpayers are subject to limits on the amount of charitable gifts they can deduct. These limitations do not apply to QCDs.
- You won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your other income to higher levels of taxation.

Have you already notified us of your plans? Thank you!
We're grateful and honored to include you in our ZPG Society.

BEQUESTS BY THE NUMBERS

More than 70% of American households contribute to charity each year, yet only about 9% leave gifts to charity in their estate plans. Those are surprising statistics when you consider how remarkably simple it is to include a charitable gift in your will or revocable living trust.

Your gift to Population Connection can be personally satisfying without jeopardizing the financial security of your family. When considering a charitable bequest, think of all the assets you own and how they can be distributed to those you care about. For example:

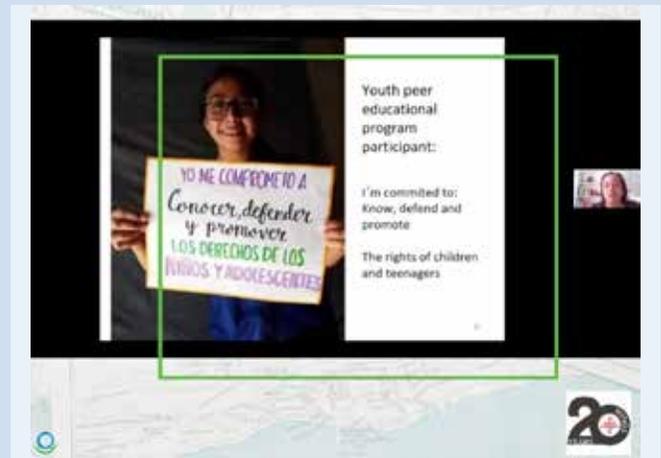
- 1. Investments.** You can fund a gift during your lifetime from which you retain an income. Appreciated securities can be sold with no loss to capital gain taxes—and it might even be possible to supplement your retirement income. You can also establish a trust in your estate plan that pays income to family members for life with the assets then passing to Population Connection.
- 2. Life insurance.** You can name Population Connection the beneficiary, co-beneficiary, or contingent beneficiary of an insurance policy while retaining ownership. Or you can make us the owner of a policy that is no longer needed for family security.
- 3. Retirement accounts.** You can avoid the income tax from your IRA by making a gift directly from your IRA during your lifetime. Through your estate, you can also use IRA assets to make a gift to a loved one that will make payments for their lifetime.
- 4. Real estate.** You can give real estate outright to Population Connection during your lifetime or through your estate. Also, you can give real estate and receive income for life or give real estate and get fixed, steady payments for life with a charitable gift annuity.

To learn more about these or other ideas for including Population Connection in your estate plan, please contact us.

10 LITTLE-KNOWN ITEMS TO LEAVE TO CHARITY

1. Any assets not needed for heirs' future security.
2. Accounts receivable of a professional or business owner.
3. Unpaid commissions.
4. Unpaid royalties under a patent license.
5. Remaining payments on installment obligations.
6. Deferred compensation of an executive.
7. A final salary check, bonuses, and distributions from employee benefit plans.
8. A business partner's share of partnership income up to date of death.
9. Interest on U.S. savings bonds.
10. Death benefits from IRAs or other retirement accounts.

Most of these items consist of income earned by a decedent before death but paid to their estate after death. The income is still subject to income tax, but a gift of these assets to Population Connection completely avoids all income taxes.



Medical Director Dr. Michelle Dubon of Women's International Network for Guatemalan Solutions (WINGS) oversees reproductive health and family planning clinical services. Population Connection invited her to discuss the challenges WINGS faces when offering services to their patients, most of whom live in rural areas.

INSPIRED TO GIVE

Born in 1943 in New York City, Eric Hirst attended Rensselaer PolyTech, majoring in mechanical engineering and then had “a free ride courtesy of the federal government” to graduate school at Stanford University.

Eric met his late wife, Susan, in graduate school, marrying while he finished up his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. They both taught for two years at Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) before moving to Tennessee, where Eric worked at Oak Ridge National Lab for the next 30 years.

After retiring, the couple moved to the Seattle area, where they spent a lot of quality time with their grandchildren. After losing Susan a few years ago, Eric started dating Lorrie—a friend of his late wife’s. He quips, “I feel really lucky that I somehow tricked two wonderful women into going out with me.”

Becoming passionate

Eric first became interested in Zero Population Growth (ZPG) while living in California. He spent a lot of time in the outdoors, biking and hiking in the mountains. “I became an environmentalist ... passionate about preserving the wilderness,” Eric recalls. “My interest in population began in the mid-to-late 1960s, with Paul Ehrlich’s ideas and his book, ‘The Population Bomb’—so I joined ZPG.

“Population growth is hurting the planet. If we don’t address this problem, we’ll never be able to solve lots of other problems, including water shortages and climate change. They’re all rooted in population growth.

“Climate change isn’t going to happen just in the future; we’re already seeing its effects now—wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, rising sea



Eric Hirst

levels. The fundamental origin of climate change is, in my view, population growth.”

Giving back

Despite a modest upbringing, Eric feels he has led a charmed life and has an obligation to give back, which has inspired him to include Population Connection in his will.

“I’ve stayed involved with Population Connection all these decades because it is the only environmental organization that has the courage to tackle population issues. I’m really glad Population Connection is trying to do something about this critical problem.”

Thank you

We’re deeply grateful to Eric for his long-standing support of ZPG—and now Population Connection—both as a member of the President’s Circle and the ZPG Society.

For other ideas about including Population Connection in your estate plans, visit www.popconnect.org/legacy.

FOUR WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

Here are four convenient ways you can include charitable gifts to Population Connection in your will or living trust.

- 1. Leave the residue.** This is a gift of all or part of whatever property is left after others have been provided for or in the event all others should predecease you.
- 2. Leave a percentage.** This is the most flexible way to give and allows your gift to automatically change with the size of your estate.

- 3. Give a fixed amount.** This is the most common type of bequest. The amount is certain and can be adjusted along with other terms of your will over time, if desired.
- 4. Donate specific property.** Securities, real estate, and personal property can all be given. It is important, however, that plans be kept up to date as properties are acquired or sold over time.

You should check with your advisors for help in making sure your plans still meet your needs. We will be pleased to provide more information about the charitable dimension of your plans.



Photo credit: Adedotun Oluwatosin Ajibade

With fresh water sources growing scarcer and population growth rising, by 2040 more than half the world's projected population will live in the 59 countries experiencing high water stress.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

“After fulfilling all other provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath _____% of the remainder of my estate [or \$_____ if a specific amount] to Population Connection [tax ID # 94-1703155], a charitable corporation currently located at 2120 L Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20037.”

If you do remember Population Connection in your estate plan, please let us know! We'll be happy to invite you to join the ranks of other forward-looking members in our *ZPG Society*.

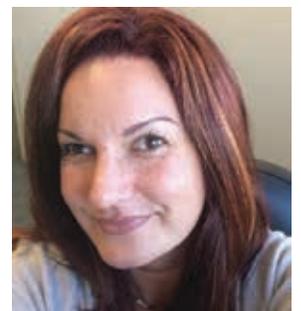
The purpose of this publication is solely educational, namely to provide general gift, estate, financial planning, and related information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice, and you should not rely on it as such. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate and qualified advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Consult a tax and/or accounting specialist for advice regarding tax and accounting related matters. © Copyright 2021 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NNNPDF-21



Shauna Scherer, MPA, CFRE
Vice President for Marketing & Development
(202) 974-7730



Population Connection
2120 L Street NW Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037
legacy@popconnect.org



Jennifer Lynaugh
Director of Individual Giving
(202) 974-7710

Masthead photo:
Areuse River in the Neuchâtel Jura, Switzerland
© Markus Thoenen