

END OF THE YEAR GIVING CHECKLIST

2022 has definitely been a busy year! However, there is still time before the end of the year to make charitable gifts to your favorite charities, and we hope that the Ozaukee County Historical Society (OCHS) is right up there at the top!!!

Here are some ideas to maximize your giving impact and potentially minimize your 2022 tax bill as you help "saving yesterday for today and tomorrow" through your financial support of the Ozaukee County Historical Society:

1. IRA Opportunities

Are you age 70 1/2 or older and have IRAs? Then you qualify for special tax treatment of distributions from your IRAs which are normally considered taxable income to you. Direct your IRA custodian to pay the distribution directly to "Ozaukee County Historical Society". Ask them to do a "QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION" sometimes called a "Direct Charitable Rollover". The maximum annual limit is \$100,000. This can be a wonderful way to support OCHS and receive tax benefits as well. As always, talk to your tax adviser if you have any questions.

2. Give where needed

If you want the simplest choice, consider making a non-designated gift to where it is most needed. OCHS offers a wide variety of ways that you can make a difference. Your gifts will support historical educational programs, such as those developed and directed specifically for school children, or help to maintain and preserve the vast OCHS library and archives of the history and people who lived and worked to build Ozaukee County through the past 170+ years.

Or, your gift could help to maintain the variety of structures the historical society owns and maintains, from the historic Interurban Depot that serves as the OCHS headquarters and archive center, to the many historic structures in the OCHS Pioneer Village or Stony Hill School.

Your onetime or ongoing gifts will help the Ozaukee County Historical Society to continue to make available and maintain our historic Pioneer Village, a collection of over 26 buildings, including log cabins, half timber structures, barns and houses from the 1860s to the 1930s. Included is the historic Cedarburg Railroad Station which recently went through a complete top-to-bottom restoration to its original significance as one of many prominent structures in the history of Ozaukee County. A big thanks to everyone who supported and donated toward the restoration effort.

Adjacent to the train station is the 1940 Milwaukee Road Ribside Caboose which is slated for a major restoration beginning in 2023. The No.01887 caboose is only one of 25 of that style built for the railroad. Unfortunately, only nine are still around and OCHS has one of them! Both the exterior and interior need complete refurbishing and restoration.

3. Give someone else's money too

Hundreds of companies across the country match or partially match employee contributions to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations such as the Ozaukee County Historical Society. That effectively could double your donation!

Just contact your employer to see if they will match your donations and find out how it works. Some employers even match contributions made by their retired workers, so it makes sense to check.

4. "Double" your tax break

Did you know you can probably double your tax break by donating appreciated assets such as stock or real estate to OCHS?

If you have stock that has grown in value, you can donate shares of stock to OCHS and should receive a charitable deduction for the current value as well as eliminate capital gains tax on the appreciation.

Another option would be to consider making a gift of real estate and you'll receive a charitable deduction for the current value as well as eliminate capital gains tax.

5. Make a gift that will last forever

Consider making a legacy gift to create an endowment that will continue to ensure that the history of Ozaukee County is provided for in the future. Your gift could allow OCHS to maintain one or more of the historic structures in Pioneer Village, Stony Hill School or the Interurban Depot.

Or, your gift could provide the funds to restore or maintain an historically significant building that would enhance the educational experience of the collection at Pioneer Village. Just think, your legacy gift could provide an ongoing educational experience for generations to come!

6. Remember the deadline

Your gifts to OCHS must be completed by midnight on December 31, 2022, in order to receive a charitable deduction for the 2022 tax year. Keep in mind that gifts of stocks or other securities may take two to three weeks to process at year-end.

Remembering our history is important. Properly maintaining the genealogical records and significant structures from the hardworking pioneers who built and lived in Ozaukee County is a legacy that everyone should want to ensure is available for generations to come. Please consider making a gift, large or small, to support the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

Don Borgwardt