FAS

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT SERVICES INC.

THE NAVIGATOR

NEWS FROM TEAM FAS

December
2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MATT ARNOLD, CFP®

Owner, President of FAS

2016 has been an interesting year at FAS to say the least. As a company, we have navigated many changes and have enjoyed amazing growth, both internally and for our clients. Our team is stronger than ever, and we are so honored to have served you all this year.

On behalf of the entire FAS team, I'd like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of our clients for your continued trust and support. We continue to do what we do every day because we are truly passionate about helping you all build strong financial futures. *You are the reason we are here.*

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the happiest of Holiday Seasons,

Matt

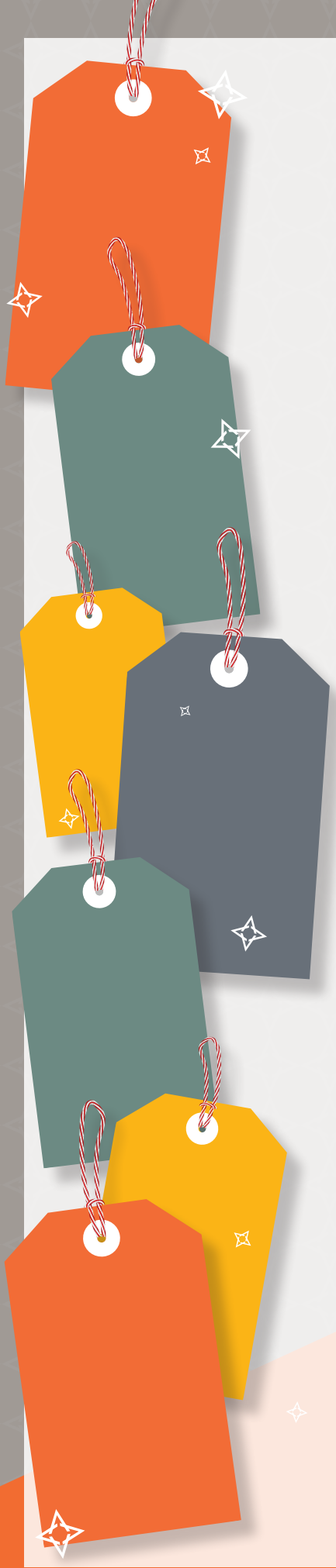
AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR TAX SEASON

It's December and the tax year is coming to a close. Please be aware that you will be receiving two tax documents for any account held at Pershing (Transamerica accounts beginning in 4H8, H33, 08H, TFA, HVR, HKD). This is due to the transition from Transamerica to Signator that occurred in May. As a result of the merger, the documents coming from each company will have different account numbers. You will need both documents when you file your 2016 taxes.

CHARITABLE GIVING FAST FACTS

- ✓ $373.25 billion was donated to charitable organizations in 2015.[1]
- ✓ 71% of charitable donations in 2015 were given by individuals. [2]
- ✓ The average annual household charitable contribution is $2,974.[3]
- ✓ By the year 2055, an estimated $41 trillion will change hands as Americans pass on their accumulated assets to the next generation. [4]

[1] *Giving USA™, The Giving Institute™*
[2] *Giving USA™, The Giving Institute™*
[3] *National Philanthropic Trust, via The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University*
[4] *The 2010 Bank of America Study of High Net Worth Philanthropy conducted by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University*



IT'S THE GIFTING SEASON...

FOLLOW THESE GIVING GUIDELINES WHEN PLANNING YOUR YEAR END CHARITABLE DONATIONS OR GIFTS TO FAMILY

'Tis the season for giving. It's time for us all to spread goodwill to our friends and family, and consider those who might be less fortunate in the world. Giving back could be one of the most rewarding things you can do.

In the financial world, giving can actually give back. Including charitable donations in your financial plan might not only offset your tax burden, but if set up correctly they can actually help protect your family's wealth. Contributions must be made before the close of the tax year in order to be deductible however, so the clock is ticking for the rest of December.

Talk with your family about how you might want to give back this year. Discuss your giving goals. Then reach out to your FAS financial advisor and your accountant to discuss your options.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Currently, the IRS allows taxpayers to deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income when those donations are made to qualified not-for-profit organizations.[1]

DEDUCTION LIMITS

Cash gifts to other non-qualifying organizations (private foundations, domestic fraternal organizations) you might be eligible to deduct up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.[2]

CASH GIFTS

It is possible to "gift" up to $14,000 in 2016 [3] to as many recipients as you desire without being required to file a Gift Tax Return. Limitations do apply so ask your advisor for details.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

By establishing a charitable trust, an individual can make an irrevocable future gift to a charity and still claim a current income tax deduction for the gift.[4] The establishment of a charitable trust not only helps the charity, but might also reduce your estate taxes. Speak with your FAS advisor about your options.

THE ESTATE TAX

In 2016, a deceased's estate is subject to estate tax at the federal level when its value is in excess of $5.45 million.[5] Estate value includes the combined value of physical assets, life insurance policies, pension funds and retirement funds.

THE KIDDIE TAX

If considering a financial gift to your own child who is under age 19 or a full-time student under age 24, be aware of the "Kiddie Tax" which has unearned income limits that could affect their tax rates.[6] Speak with your FAS financial advisor for guidance before making a decision about this type of gift.

Representatives of Signator Investors, Inc. do not provide tax and legal advice. Please consult your tax advisor or attorney for such guidance.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 *IRS*

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FAS CONNECTIONS

Now, FAS clients have multiple ways to stay up to date with financial trends. Although a face-to-face meeting with your advisor is always best, now you also can tune in with us online and via social media. Follow us for weekly advice and updates that are designed to help keep financial issues at the forefront of your mind — so you can make the right decisions about your future.

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Registered Representative/Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through Signator Investors, Inc.,
Member FINRA, SIPC, and Registered Investment Advisor. Financial Achievement Services is independent of Signator Investors, Inc.
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