

PERSPECTIVES

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8 E D I T I O N

GIVING BACK

*Reaffirm the Deeper Side
of the Human Heart*

WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR ESTATE AND PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

9 Tips for Managing **LOWER BACK PAIN**

*How to Grow
an Herb Garden*



PLATINUM
TAX & WEALTH MANAGEMENT

SPRING WELCOME



Dear Client,

Greetings and well wishes to you as we prepare for springtime. The arrival of spring this year comes as a very welcome change—after what, for many, was a very brutal winter.

For most of us, the change of season is a time for optimism. Longer days, warmer weather, and the blossoming of nature await us. Spring is also a season of preparation: spring cleaning, gardening, and summer vacation planning.

In this Spring 2018 Newsletter, we present to you several timely articles with valuable information you can use to plan your financial life, to prepare for warmer weather, and to safeguard your health and well-being.

You'll read about the importance of carefully planning your charitable giving, steps to take to prevent and relieve lower back pain, and how to create an herb garden that will allow you to grow delicious and healthy herbs for you, your family, and your friends. You'll also learn about the importance of planning your estate.

We're hoping this newsletter—full of tips and ideas for a more prosperous and healthier future—will brighten your life for many more seasons to come.

As your financial professionals, we at Platinum Tax and Wealth Management wish you success, wisdom in planning, and a greater appreciation for what lies ahead.

Contact us today. We'd be very happy to help you pursue your financial goals.

Warm Regards,

Jeremy and Cindy Matranga

Jeremy M. Matranga, RFC
President & CEO

Cindy D. Matranga
Vice President of Operations

SUDOKU

			8					9
	1	9			5	8	3	
	4	3		1				7
4			1	5				3
		2	7		4		1	
	8			9		6		
	7				6	3		
	3			7			8	
9		4	5					1

SUDOKU

Sudoku or "single number" is a logic-based, number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid (boxes) contains all of the digits from 1 to 9 once.

2					1	4		
7				9				
	3			5	6			2
	7		2	1	8	5		6
1		2			5	9	3	
	6				9			
6				8				
9			5		3	8		
4	1	8		2			6	5



Giving Back

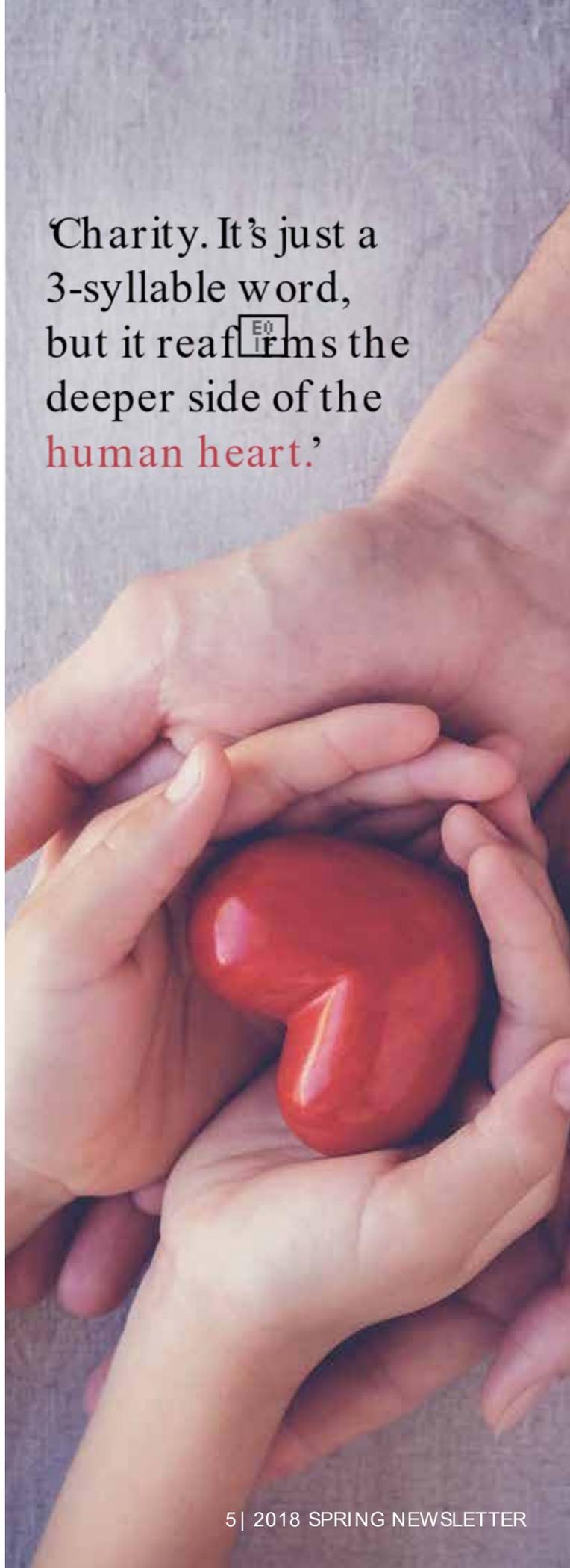
Charity. It's just a 3-syllable word, but it reaches the deeper side of the human heart: its innate desire to sacrifice for love's sake, its selfless acts of improving the lives of others, and its humble expressions of caring and compassion. This is where life ought to begin.

In his first inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln referred to that intrinsic drive in each of us to connect and to bond with others: "The mysterious chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

For some reason, charity is woven uniquely and deeply into the fabric of the American soul. Per capita giving in the United States exceeds that of any other nation by a nearly 2-1 margin.¹

Carefully designed financial strategies enable Americans holding those heartfelt passions to integrate their visions of giving and their heart-held values into clearly defined directives. These directives provide givers with the assurance that they are making a difference in their communities and in people's lives.

Developing a plan of action allows you to keep track of your donations and provides you with the confidence in knowing your gifts are going to worthwhile causes.



‘Charity. It’s just a 3-syllable word, but it reaffirms the deeper side of the human heart.’

HOW DOES PLANNING YOUR PHILANTHROPY HELP CHARITIES?

Charity and nonprofit organizations depend on the generosity of donors. While many organizations devote considerable time and effort to fundraising and marketing campaigns to maintain their budgets, the bulk of their donations comes from the faithful givers who believe in the nonprofit’s cause and share its vision.

Charity Navigator,² an independent nonprofit that evaluates charity organizations, provides donors with the resources to choose responsible and accountable recipients. Donors can use the site to investigate nonprofits’ financial transparency and percentage of actual giving.

Strong, loyal commitments from donors to nonprofits allow organizations to align their budgets more closely with their mission statements.

CharityWatch,³ an independent charity watchdog group, analyzes nonprofits’ financial reports to reveal spending trends and budget expenditures in various organizations.

CharityWatch rates organizations as highly efficient if their administrative, marketing, and other overhead costs fall below 25% of their budgets.⁴

STRATEGIC GIVING HELPS DONORS AND NONPROFITS

Developing a donation plan helps nonprofits shift their focus to the principles outlined in their mission statements. Nonprofit leaders who know their revenue streams are flowing strongly and steadily can adjust their efforts on either expanding their organizations to help more people or improving their levels of service.

Dedicated giving plans by a network of donors also help lessen the need for nonprofits to sponsor exhaustive marketing campaigns and hold regular fundraising drives. Donors who only respond to mail or cybersolicitations reinforce the need

‘Volunteering gives people the opportunity to invest in their communities on a deeper human level.’⁵



for charity groups to conduct expensive marketing campaigns, which explains in part why many organizations spend so much of their money to generate more money.

Planning your giving also lets you determine who exactly should receive your donations. You may choose, for example, to earmark percentages of your donation budget to churches, to shelters, or to certain education foundations.

Here are some questions to help bring focus and clarity to your giving strategy:

- What does your pattern of giving reveal about you?
- What charitable causes ignite your passion or grab your interest?
- Have your giving and your gifts been disciplined and focused in one area?
- What motivates your giving?
- How did you connect with your chosen charities?

Developing a plan for your giving provides you with the assurance that your gifts are going where you feel they'll produce the best impact. Having a plan in place establishes a kind of partnership between you and the charity organization.

Giving also has a secondary and more tangible benefit on your taxes. Listing charitable giving during your tax filing may lower your tax bill.

PHILANTHROPY ACCENTUATES YOUR PERSONAL VALUES

A giving plan helps define your core values and focuses your life mission. Determining how, what, and to whom you want to give involves at least some personal reflection to assess your values and your priorities in life.

Helping people doesn't always have to take the form of a monetary gift. Volunteering your time, offering your expertise, or sharing your wisdom fits into the category of philanthropy. Volunteering gives people the opportunity to invest in their communities on a deeper human level.⁵

The act of sharing our time and talents with others elevates us by enhancing our problem-solving abilities, strengthening our communities, improving other people's circumstances, establishing connections with others, and creating opportunities to transform hurting lives on the deepest levels.

Investing in others could never be easier.

GIVE NOW OR GIVE LATER: **WHEN'S BEST?**

The timing of your giving is just as important as how much and to whom you give. Here are some questions to consider: How often do you want to give? Do you want to include a gift as part of your estate? How do you want to give? Consulting a financial professional to analyze your circumstances and review your goals may help alleviate your concerns.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU REACH **YOUR GOALS?**

As financial experts, we want to help you shape your vision into a practical and workable plan. We can help you:

- Explore your values and create a family mission statement.
- Develop a system for giving that incorporates your goals.
- Understand how planned giving can fit into your existing financial strategies.
- Develop your personal legacy and a vision for your family's future.

By working with financial professionals, you gain valuable insight into how to give responsibly and guidance in achieving your charity goals. We will help you identify worthy and reputable groups and organizations by equipping you with the ability to analyze and research nonprofit causes.

¹<https://www.philanthropyroundtable.org/almanac/statistics/>

²<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

³<https://www.charitywatch.org/home>

⁴<https://www.charitywatch.org/charitywatch-criteria-methodology>

⁵<https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/benefits-volunteering>



WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR ESTATE

AND PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

Proper estate management is critical when working toward a more sound and stable financial life. From your wills to beneficiaries and beyond, estates require thoughtful strategies.

Yet many Americans still haven't protected themselves in the ways they should. In fact, only 40% of adults have a will or living trust.¹ If you don't have documentation in place to direct your wishes, the courts may decide what to do with your estate when you pass away.

Preparing for the future and adequately protecting your financial life take care and consideration. By starting with these tips, you'll be on the path to creating a more stable foundation for your family.

PREPARE TO ENJOY A LONG LIFE.

Thanks in part to advances in medicine, we're living longer than ever, meaning you will probably need to account for a longer life span than previous generations. Without thoughtful strategies, outliving your resources can be a real threat to your estate and your family's financial standing. Today, one-quarter of all 65-year-olds will live into their 90s—and 10% will live beyond 95 years old.² Furthermore, 20% of 65-year-olds today will need assisted care at some point in their lives for more than 5 years.³

As we age, our expenses increase. With long-term care costs continuing to escalate, you need financial strategies to help you prepare for longevity. Here is a snapshot of some of the annual costs to anticipate for your future:⁴

