



VALLEY CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Promoting land use that sustains the farms, forests, open spaces, and cultural heritage of the Shenandoah Valley region

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Perpetual Protection: Leaving a Legacy for the Valley through Planned Giving

Valley Conservation Council accepts gifts of cash, stock, and mutual funds, insurance and other planned giving methods. In addition we gratefully accept estate gifts and gifts made in honor or memory of loved ones. All contributions made to VCC are tax-deductible to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Methods of donation include:

Securities: Gifts of long-term appreciated stock or mutual funds offer an efficient way to make a lasting contribution to VCC with tax benefits to the donor.

Benefits of this method include:

- Gifts of securities may provide an income tax deduction of up to 30 percent adjusted gross income. The excess can be carried forward for up to five years.
- The donation may help you avoid capital gains on the security.
- By funding a life-income gift with securities, the donor may receive income during your life time.

Estate Planning: Gift planning through your estate makes a lasting contribution to VCC while taking advantage of favorable federal and state tax benefits. These benefits include:

- Reduction of your income taxes
- Reduction or elimination of capital gains taxes
- Removal of assets from estate and possible reduction of your gift and estate tax.
- Providing income for yourself and others.

Estate gift methods include:

- **Bequests** – You may include VCC in your will by leaving a percentage of the estate, a specific dollar amount, a particular asset, or by naming VCC as the residual beneficiary. You may specify a particular purpose to be supported by the bequest (to establish a memorial fund, an endowment fund, a program fund, etc.) or you may wish to designate its purpose as unrestricted, in which case the gift will be used for general educational purposes as the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may deem advisable for the best interests of the organization. If you place VCC in your will, please let us know so that we may thank you now for the generosity of your intentions.
- **Name a Beneficiary** – You may designate VCC as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, insurance policy or financial account.

- **Life-Income Gifts** – A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), managed by a trustee of your choice such as a bank trust department, provides a way of giving to VCC while retaining an income for life. Gift assets are irrevocably transferred to the trust and you or another beneficiary retain an income from them. The income can be either variable (in the case of a "unitrust") or fixed (as in an "annuity trust"), a decision you make at the time the trust is established. When the trust ends, the principal passes to VCC to fund a purpose selected by the donor. A charitable remainder trust for which VCC serves as trustee requires a minimum initial contribution of \$100,000. For an annuity trust there can be no additional contributions, while for the unitrust there is no minimum for additional contributions. For more information on charitable remainder trusts consult your financial advisor
- **A Gift of a Personal Residence or Farm with a Retained Life Estate**
Federal tax law allows you to donate your home or farm to VCC while retaining the right to live in it for the rest of your life or a term of years. You may also use a vacation home for this type of gift.
- **Charitable Lead Trust** – Give to VCC now and still pass assets onto your heirs. See your financial advisor for more information on this special gift option.
- **Paid-Up life Insurance Policy** -- Many people own fully paid-up insurance policies that are no longer needed for their original purposes. Such policies can be given to VCC. Paid-up life insurance policies for which North Cross has been made the owner and irrevocable beneficiary entitle the donor to a charitable tax deduction equivalent to the cash surrender value. Gifts of insurance policies that are not paid up receive tax deductions for their cash values and for the additional annual cash contributions required to enable VCC to pay subsequent premiums. For more information on a gift of life insurance consult your financial advisor.

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**To determine the most favorable method of making a gift, VCC encourages donors to consult with their legal and financial advisors taking into account personal, philanthropic, financial and tax objectives. We would be happy to work with you to design a gift plan to suit your interest in land protection and that assists VCC in its long-term efforts to protect the land and resources of the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia.**

**For more information contact Valley Conservation Council at 540-886-3541 or via email at [vcc@valleyconservation.org](mailto:vcc@valleyconservation.org).**