New Early Literacy Center Unveiled

The Marathon County Public Library held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the Early Literary Center. This center will be a place where children from birth to age five, together with their parents or caregivers, can play, learn, grow, and prepare for school success in a free, safe, hands-on, interactive, open and non-discriminatory envriorment. The MCPL is a Community Enhancement Grant recipient with funds coming from the Wausau•Marathon County Fund.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
500 FIRST STREET SUITE 2600 WAUSAU, WI 54403

JOJO'S JUNGLE RECEIVES $250,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!

JoJo's Jungle recently recieved a challenge grant of $250,000 from an anonymous donor advised fund administred within the Community Foundation!

Josiah "JoJo" Hoerter, was the adopted son of Patrick and Destiny Hoerter. He passed away months shy of his third birthday from a rare genetic disorder called MECP2 Duplication Syndrome. The dream of JoJo's Jungle came from a promise made to Josiah. His Make-A-Wish was going to be an accessible playground in the Hoerter's backyard. When that wish went unmet, the Hoerter's set out to fulfill the promise to design the ultimate all-inclusive playground for our community so that other families could enjoy his legacy. The Hoerter's hope is to build a unique playground setting where children of any ability can play alongside their friends and families. The goal is to enrich social skills, sensory learning, and promote physical fitness in a safe environment for every child in our community.

The JoJo's Jungle Fund is administered within the Community Foundation. By contributing to this fund before December 31, you will bring this project one step closer to the $250,000 grant match. Your donation will benefit many families in north central Wisconsin through the creation of this community park.

Donate by going to www.cfoncw.org and click GIVE NOW to donate online, or mail your check to:
Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin
500 First Street, Suite 2600
Wausau, WI 54403

BUILDING COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Enhancing the quality of life in north central Wisconsin.

FALL NEWSLETTER 2018

A PLACE TO PADDLE: Wausau Whitewater Park, located in downtown Wausau, and operating since 1974, is a nationally recognized whitewater course. From its inception, community volunteers and supporters have collectively made the park what it is today. At about a third of a mile long the park has something for everyone. Wausau Kayak and Canoe Corporation received a Community Enhancement Grant in 2018 for improvements to the Whitewater Park.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Mission

We exist to enhance the quality of north central Wisconsin.

COMMUNITY ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

SUMMER MADE FUN BY OUR DONORS

A note from **Jean Tehan** / *Chief Executive Officer*

If you have walked along the river's edge, paddled down the professional level Whitewater Park course, or biked through the rigorous courses of the Sylvan Hill Bike Park, then you have experienced firsthand how the generosity of our donors makes north central Wisconsin a more vibrant and livable community. Grants from the Community Foundation, made possible through the gifts of our donors, enhance our quality of life in north central Wisconsin in real and tangible ways.

Community Foundation grants from various funds have also provided funding for:

- ChalkFest 2018
- Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's "Please Touch" a tactile art exhibition
- The new Early Literacy Center at the Marathon County Public Library
- Painting workshops at the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art
- And much more

A very heartfelt "thank you" goes out to our donors for the many diverse activities they help make available for all of us to enjoy.

Jean C. Tehan

LUTHRA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The Luthra Family Scholarship Fund was established within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin in 2014 by Drs. Madhu and Vinay Luthra. Earnings from the fund are distributed annually in the form of a scholarship to an exceptional student from the Wausau or D.C.Everest Area School Districts who plans to pursue an education in health or human sciences at a University of Wisconsin college or university.

This year, Barnabas Shiferaw, a graduate from Wausau West High School, was awarded the Luthra Family Scholarship. Barnabas will attend the University of Wisconsin Madison this coming fall. This scholarship will be a stepping stone for his dreams to eventually attend medical school.

> *It is wonderful to see smart young people pursuing their goals by attending college with a little help through our scholarship.* *Dr. Vinay Luthra*

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Gary Barden Photography

An Overview to Charitable Giving Under the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017"

Article by: Amy Ebeling
Shareholder with Ruder Ware

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is the largest tax reform legislation enacted since 1986. Indeed, the potential repercussions associated with its passing captured the nation's attention for months. Even now, months after the fact, businesses and individuals are still uncertain as to how the new legislation actually impacts them. Unfortunately, a broad-based misunderstanding of the changes to certain deductions, credits, and adjustments created a negative perception of charitable giving under the new tax law when, in fact, the charitable deduction was expanded under the new law. This article stands to clarify some of those key changes created by the tax legislation and to provide strategies for continued tax-compatible charitable giving.

Key Changes for 2018:

- The annual charitable deduction limit increased from 50% to 60% of AGI for cash gifts.
- The overall limit on itemized deduction (generally referred to as the Pease limit) was eliminated, and therefore taxpayers no longer have to reduce their itemized deductions that exceed the $313,800 threshold.
- The federal estate-tax exemption increased to $11.18 million for individuals and $22.36 million for couples.
- The standard deduction increased to $12,000 for single filers and $24,000 for married couples filing jointly.
- Federal deductions for state and local tax and mortgage interest are limited.
- Income-tax brackets for individuals are lower.
- Corporations receive a significant tax-rate cut from 35% to 21%.
- The medical expense deduction threshold is reduced to 7.5% of AGI.
- The Affordable Care Act's individual mandate is repealed.
- The personal exemption is eliminated.
- The charitable deduction for college athletic seating rights is eliminated.

What Did Not Change:

- Donors may still donate the same types of property to charity.
- There were no changes in the tax treatment of charitable remainder trusts and other split interest trusts.
- Charitable gifts of appreciated capital assets valued at fair market are limited to 30% of AGI, or a donor can elect to value the capital asset gift at his/her cost basis and apply the 50% AGI limitation.
- Donors may still avoid capital gains tax through charitable gifts of appreciated property.
- IRA rollover is still available for donors age 70½ or older.

For the most part, the charitable deduction remains unchanged after the 2017 tax legislation. Donors who exceed the standard deduction will still accumulate an itemized deduction through their charitable gifts and may actually increase their cash gifts to 60% of AGI. Granted, there are indirect impacts on charitable giving, as the lower tax rate and higher standard deduction may somewhat reduce the tax savings once enjoyed by charitable giving. However, there are strategies to carry on your tradition of charitable giving:

- **Donate gifts of appreciated assets**: The new tax law preserved the regulations pertaining to charitable gifts of appreciated assets, allowing donors to avoid paying any capital gains on the transfer of these assets. This option is especially attractive for charitable donors whose total deductions do not exceed the higher standard deduction or for those assets with an otherwise low cost basis.
- **Consider an IRA Charitable Rollover:** Taxpayers age 70½ or older may still transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA account directly to a charity without first recognizing the distribution as income.
- **Increase your gift to exceed the standard deduction:** Taxpayers on the cusp of exceeding the now higher standard deduction can increase their charitable gifts for the year in order to realize the tax savings offered through itemized deductions. Elevating your charitable gift to an itemized deduction may offset some of the "cash cost" inherently associated with gifts.
- **Leave a gift through a will or trust:** The new law doubled the federal estate tax exemption, meaning your heirs or beneficiaries stand to enjoy more of the assets you have saved for them without the burden of estate tax. Now that there is more available, consider making a charitable gift in your will or trust or even increasing a current bequest.
- **Designate a charity in your retirement plan:** Retirement plan beneficiary designations are simple to modify and tax-exempt charities, unlike individuals, are not required to pay tax on the gifted distributions. Consider gifting these assets to a charity and leave to your loved ones other assets tax-free under the now higher federal estate-tax exemption.

Amy Ebeling is a shareholder with Ruder Ware. Her practice focuses on tax and tax-efficient planning, advising businesses and individuals on a variety of business and tax matters, including corporate governance and tax compliance issues, business and farm succession planning, and the negotiation of various commercial transactions.