The benefits and responsibilities

Owning real estate has many benefits. From a financial perspective, appreciation is perhaps the most desirable of them. Over time, however, the benefit of appreciation on real estate can be overshadowed by the responsibilities of ownership. Selling is always an option, but an often overlooked option, with considerable financial benefits, is giving the property to a charitable organization like Robin Hood.

Selling a property owned for many years can result in excessive taxes. This is particularly the case for vacation homes and investment properties. A significant portion of the sale proceeds are often lost to taxes.

Giving and saving taxes

Make a gift of your real estate and save taxes, and, if you wish, create a new stream of income. When you give a property either directly to Robin Hood or to a charitable remainder trust that will ultimately benefit Robin Hood, your tax and financial benefits are likely considerable.

Ways you can give real estate

An Outright Gift - Give your real estate directly to Robin Hood. While Robin Hood will need to determine if the property is suitable for us to accept, the transfer itself requires little more than a deed. You will receive an income tax charitable deduction for the fair market value of your gift and escape all taxes on the capital gains.

A Gift in Your Will or Revocable Living Trust - If you wish to retain control of your property during your lifetime but desire to make a gift to benefit Robin Hood after your passing, a provision in your will or revocable trust can give the real estate to Robin Hood from your estate. Should your needs change, you retain the ability to revoke the gift.

In Exchange for Income - If you wish to give your property to Robin Hood and create income, you can transfer the property into a tax-exempt charitable remainder trust. You will receive an income tax charitable deduction for a portion of the fair market value of the property. The trust will sell the property and no taxes will be due. All proceeds from the sale will be invested, and you will receive payments for life. When the trust terminates, the remaining assets will go to benefit Robin Hood and our work.

A Gift of Some - You can give a percentage interest in your property to Robin Hood and keep the remaining interest. This will result in an income tax charitable deduction for the fair market value of the interest you give to Robin Hood. It is possible for both Robin Hood and you to sell the property, with both receiving cash proceeds. You can use your charitable deduction to offset capital gains taxes from the sale of the interest you retained. You can also give a percentage interest in your property to a charitable remainder trust, generating an income stream for you once the property is sold.

We are here to assist

If you have questions please, contact our Office of Gift Planning at 212-844-3521 or by sending an email to plannedgiving@robinhood.org.