Wisdom For Wealth. *For Life.*®

FALL 2026

BlueTrust

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Creating Win-Win Outcomes *with Charitable Remainder Trusts*

What if you could strengthen your financial picture, provide for your family, and increase your support for the charitable causes you care about—all through the same planning strategy?

At first glance, that may sound too good to be true. Yet in the right circumstances, charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) can be integrated into financial and estate plans to help you accomplish all three of these goals.

Many people assume CRTs are only for exceptionally wealthy or highly philanthropic families. In reality, they can serve as a practical planning tool for individuals and families to steward their appreciated assets more effectively.

One client, after learning how CRTs work, summed it up this way: "CRTs make all the counterintuitive sense in the world."

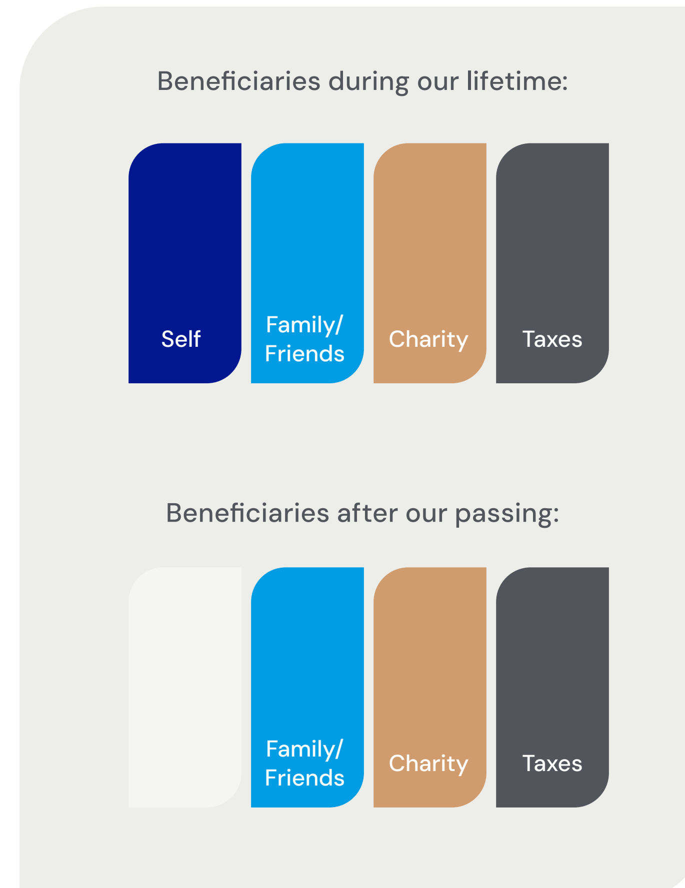
At first, the strategy seems backward. Why would committing assets to charity ultimately create greater financial outcomes for your family? The answer lies in how financial, estate, charitable, and tax planning work together.

As Romans 12:2 reminds us: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Wise financial stewardship often requires us to challenge assumptions and think differently. A CRT is one example of how thoughtful planning can produce results that may seem counterintuitive at first but become increasingly compelling once we understand how they work.

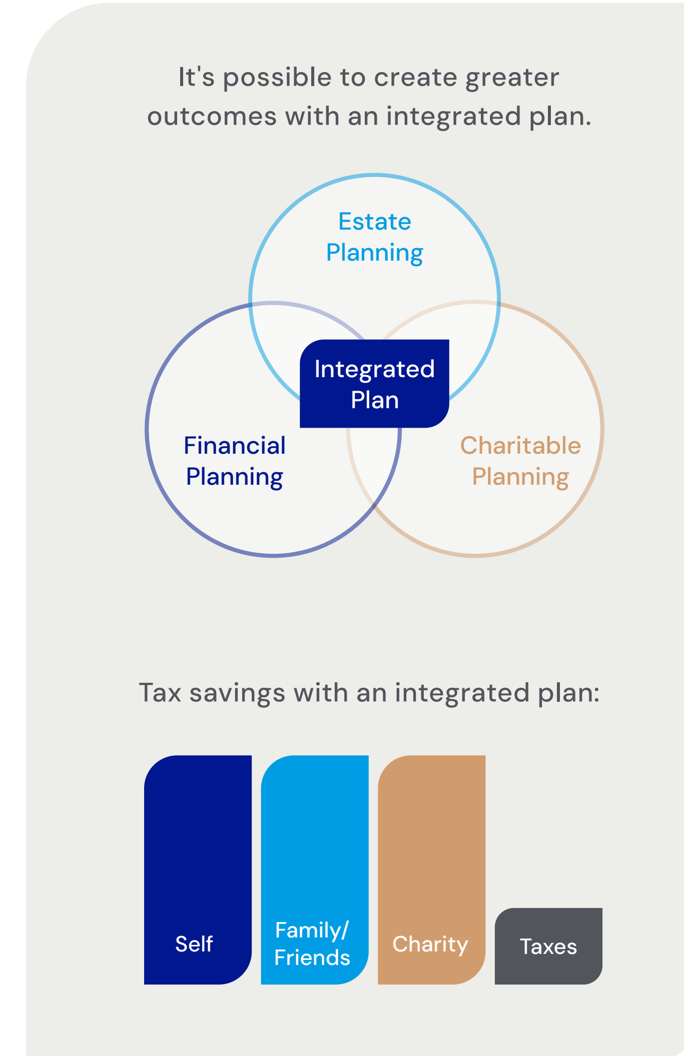
Integrating Financial and Charitable Planning

CRTs can play a valuable role in many financial and estate plans. Before looking at specific examples, let's begin with a few simple principles that apply to every individual. During our lifetime, our income and assets can benefit four beneficiaries. When we pass away, our assets are divided between only three beneficiaries.



Tax law recognizes that a portion of what we earn will benefit society, either through taxes or charitable giving. Individuals with greater resources will inevitably direct more of their assets beyond themselves and their families and friends—either voluntarily through charitable giving or involuntarily through taxation.

For many families, understanding how charitable planning interacts with tax law reveals opportunities they may not have realized were available. Rather than viewing taxes and charitable giving as competing priorities, a thoughtful strategy can align the two—allowing you to support the charities, ministries, and nonprofit organizations you care about while also creating meaningful tax advantages.



How a Charitable Remainder Trust Works

Depending on your circumstances, you can establish and fund a CRT during your lifetime or through your estate plan. In either case, it can provide income to you or your beneficiaries before the remaining assets ultimately pass to charity. Rather than choosing between caring for loved ones and supporting charitable causes, a CRT may help accomplish both.

A CRT can be especially valuable when funded with highly appreciated assets. Selling those assets outright generally results in capital gains tax, reducing the amount available to reinvest. By contrast, because a CRT is tax-exempt, it can sell appreciated assets without tax consequences. This approach allows you to sell the asset and reinvest the full value for potential greater income and growth. Depending on your situation, you may also qualify for a current income tax deduction based on the present value of the future gift to charity.

Example: Converting an Appreciated Asset into Greater Long-Term Value

Gary and Ann have owned the same investment for decades and today it is worth nearly $1 million. It has served them well, but it carries more risk than they're comfortable taking into retirement. They know they should diversify. What keeps them from moving forward is the tax bill waiting on the other side of the sale.

If they sell the asset outright, they owe approximately $250,000 in taxes. That leaves them with $750,000 to reinvest. Assuming a 5% annual withdrawal rate, their portfolio would provide about $37,500 of annual income.

A CRT offers another path. Instead of selling the asset personally, Gary and Ann could contribute it to a CRT before the sale. Because the trust is tax-exempt, it sells the asset without recognizing capital gains tax. The entire $1 million remains available for investment, increasing the amount available to generate future income.

If the trust distributes 5% annually, Gary and Ann now receive approximately $50,000 in annual income rather than $37,500.

However, their planning benefits do not end there. Because they committed to make a future charitable gift, they also qualify for a charitable income tax deduction. Suppose that deduction equals $312,500. If they fall within a 32% federal income tax bracket, the deduction could reduce their current income taxes by roughly $100,000.

Instead of investing only the $750,000 after taxes, Gary and Ann keep approximately $1.1 million working toward their long-term goals—the $1 million invested inside the CRT plus the $100,000 of tax savings they retain.

More assets retained can translate into greater lifetime income, additional financial flexibility, and more resources available for future planning. Rather than forcing Gary and Ann to choose between their own financial security and charitable generosity, the CRT helps them pursue both objectives simultaneously.

Beyond Immediate Tax Savings

A well-designed CRT can become an integral part of a broader financial strategy. Families who own appreciated stock, investment real estate, closely held business interests, or other highly appreciated assets may have an opportunity to diversify those assets more efficiently, creating the potential for greater income and growth.

Likewise, individuals who plan to include charitable gifts in their estate plans may find that making those plans part of a coordinated lifetime strategy can generate greater overall value. In many cases, after the beneficiaries pass away, the assets in a CRT pass to a donor-advised fund (DAF). This arrangement allows future generations to continue recommending grants to the charitable organizations their family supports, extending both the financial and spiritual legacy of the original gift.

Using a CRT in Your Estate Plan

One opportunity that many families might consider involves using CRTs to provide for their children or other heirs. This strategy may be especially attractive if they plan to pass traditional retirement accounts to their heirs. While IRAs often represent a significant portion of a family's wealth, they can also create substantial tax consequences for the next generation. Under current law, most non-spouse beneficiaries must fully distribute inherited IRAs within 10 years. If those beneficiaries inherit the assets during their peak earning years, the required distributions may push them into higher tax brackets and significantly reduce the value of the inheritance.

For families who already plan to make charitable gifts as part of their estate, a CRT may offer an alternative worth exploring.

Financial planning is about more than preserving wealth—it's about aligning your resources with the values, priorities, and legacy you hope to leave behind.

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Proverbs 9:9

Example: Creating Lifetime Income for the Next Generation

John and Beth's estate equals $2 million, including $1 million held in traditional IRAs. They plan to divide everything equally between their two sons. Because their estate falls below the federal estate tax exemption, federal estate taxes are not their primary concern. Instead, they worry about the income taxes their children could owe after inheriting the retirement accounts.

The non-retirement assets are straightforward, and each son can inherit those assets tax-free via a step-up in basis. The traditional IRAs, however, are not as simple. Each child would inherit a $500,000 IRA, but income taxes could consume a significant portion of that amount as they withdraw the funds over the required distribution period. Depending on their tax brackets, each beneficiary could owe around $200,000 in income taxes, reducing the after-tax inheritance to roughly $300,000.

Is there a more advantageous approach? One possibility is to designate a CRT as the beneficiary of the IRAs. When the IRA assets pass to the CRT, the trust can provide both sons with income for life rather than requiring them to manage a lump-sum inheritance subject to compressed distribution rules.

If the trust distributes 5% annually and its investments earn more than that over time, each child could receive an initial annual income of approximately $25,000. The heirs will receive income for life, with the potential for that amount to increase and keep pace with inflation if the investments in the CRT earn more than 5% over time. This outcome would benefit any beneficiary but could be especially helpful for an heir who has limited investment experience—or who might struggle to manage a substantial inheritance.

You can also design CRTs to defer income until a future date. For example, if beneficiaries do not need additional income immediately but expect greater financial needs during retirement, the trust can postpone distributions until later, allowing the assets to grow more efficiently during the deferral period.

As with every estate planning strategy, the design should reflect your family's specific goals and circumstances. A CRT is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but it can become a powerful tool when it aligns with your broader financial plan.

Challenging Conventional Thinking

Many people believe generosity and financial security pull in opposite directions or that taxes are simply the unavoidable cost of success. Wise stewardship invites a different perspective. Financial planning is about more than preserving wealth—it's about aligning your resources with the values, priorities, and legacy you hope to leave behind. Sometimes the most effective strategies are also the most counterintuitive. With thoughtful planning, you may be able to strengthen your financial position, provide for your family, and support the charitable causes you care about. In doing so, you can become a more effective steward of the resources God has entrusted to you.

Every family's situation is different. The question isn't whether a CRT is a good strategy—it's whether it's the right strategy for you. If you're considering the sale of appreciated assets, thinking about the legacy you'll leave your children, or looking for more intentional ways to support charitable organizations or ministries, your Blue Trust advisor can help you evaluate whether a CRT could support your overall plan.

Conversations That Shape *a Family's Legacy*

People spend decades building, managing, and giving wealth. Along the way, they make countless decisions shaped by experiences their children and grandchildren may never fully see.

They remember when money was tight. The risks involved in building a career or business. The mistakes that changed how they make decisions. The people who modeled generosity. The experiences that deepened their faith.

Over time, those events become part of a family's approach to wealth. But unless they are shared, the next generation may see the results without fully understanding what shaped them.

Creating space for conversations that rarely happen on their own

A family conference creates intentional space to share these stories and values across generations, opening the door to meaningful conversations about wealth, responsibility, and what the family hopes to carry forward.

There may be plenty to discuss. A family business may eventually change hands. Children may have different interests and abilities. Giving may be an important priority. Younger generations may be preparing for greater financial responsibility. Or parents may simply realize there are things they want their children and grandchildren to understand while they can share them personally. A family conference creates a setting for those conversations to happen deliberately rather than waiting for circumstances to force them.

The purpose is not simply to communicate financial information. It is to create meaningful intergenerational dialogue, understand one another's perspectives, ask questions, and share the wisdom and values that have shaped the family. Often, the most valuable questions are not about numbers at all.

What has shaped our approach to money?

A family's current financial circumstances tell only part of the story. Children and grandchildren may have grown up with opportunities their parents or grandparents never had. They may know a business succeeded without knowing about the years when success was uncertain. They may see a family's generosity without knowing the experiences that made giving a priority.

Sharing that history gives wealth context. It helps the next generation understand not just the family's financial outcomes, but the experiences and lessons behind their approach to money.

Why do we give?

For many families, generosity is deeply connected to faith and purpose, yet the reasons behind their giving may remain unspoken. A family conference creates space to share why certain causes matter to them, how giving decisions have been made, and what the family has learned through generosity.

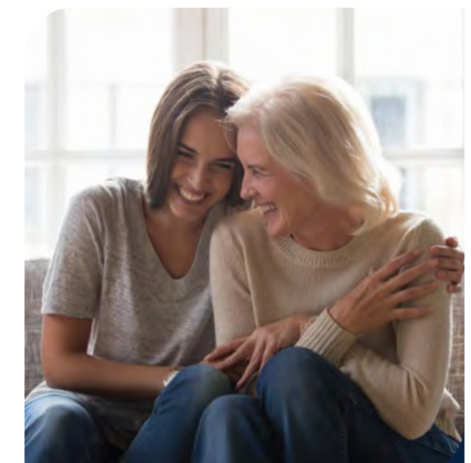
It can also invite younger generations to consider their own approach: What needs do we care about? How can our resources make a difference? The goal is not necessarily to preserve one generation's giving priorities, but to pass along a thoughtful approach to generosity that future generations can make their own.

What responsibilities come with what we have?

Wealth creates opportunities. It also raises questions about responsibility.

What does it mean to use resources wisely? How do we encourage productivity and purpose when financial necessity may not be the primary motivation to work? These questions are rarely answered through financial education alone. Families may also need to talk about work ethic, contentment, relationships, character, decision-making, and the responsibilities that accompany ownership.

For families with closely held businesses, real estate, or other shared assets, these conversations can reveal assumptions that might otherwise go unspoken. One child may want to continue the family business while another has no interest in it. Understanding those perspectives today can lead to wiser decisions before a transition occurs.



Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun.

– Ecclesiastes 7:11

What do we hope future generations carry forward?

When you think several generations into the future, what do you hope remains?

The answer may include financial resources, but most families would name other things too: faith, generosity, strong relationships, meaningful work, humility, integrity, wisdom, or a desire to use what they have for the benefit of others. A family conference gives families a chance to name those hopes and share the stories and convictions behind them.

Why facilitation matters

Conversations this important can be challenging to navigate without an objective perspective. Parents must decide what to share and how to frame the discussion, while family members may bring different questions and expectations. Having someone guide the discussion allows everyone—including parents—to participate more fully rather than having to manage the conversation at the same time.

Blue Trust advisors have more than 45 years of experience facilitating family conferences. They can help families clarify what they want to accomplish, determine who should participate, develop an agenda, prepare for the conversation, and facilitate the meeting itself.

This role fits naturally within the relationship Blue Trust advisors have with families. They understand the family's financial resources and planning, while recognizing that financial capital is only one part of what one generation passes to another. Character, wisdom, faith, relationships, and the ability to steward resources well matter too.

It's helpful to remember that the first conference does not need to accomplish everything. For many families, it becomes the beginning of an ongoing rhythm of communication as children mature, circumstances change, and new generations enter the conversation.

Ultimately, a family's legacy is shaped by more than what one generation leaves to the next. It is shaped by the wisdom they share, the values they model, and the conversations they choose to have along the way. A family conference is one meaningful way to create space for those conversations to happen.

Investing in Uncertain Times *Events*

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CLARITY AND PERSPECTIVE

In today's environment, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by market headlines and uncertainty. That's why Blue Trust is hosting a series of Investing in Uncertain Times seminars across the country this fall.

Led by Brian McClard, CFA, chief investment officer at Blue Trust, these exclusive gatherings are designed to provide thoughtful perspective on today's markets and the principles that can help investors navigate changing conditions with confidence. Rather than focusing on short-term market noise, Brian will share insights into the factors shaping today's investment landscape and the value of maintaining a disciplined, long-term approach.

Whether you're a Blue Trust client or simply looking for a trusted perspective on today's financial environment, we invite you to join us for an informative and engaging gathering. You'll have the opportunity to hear directly from our investment leadership, connect with Blue Trust advisors, and ask questions in a welcoming setting designed to encourage meaningful conversation.

Guests are welcome, so if you know someone who could benefit from a thoughtful discussion about today's markets and long-term investing, we encourage you to invite them to attend with you.

Atlanta (Everyday Steward)	September 1
Charlotte	September 3
Chicago	September 8 & 9
Seattle	September 10
Fort Worth	October 15
Dallas	October 15

Space is limited for each event to help create a personal, high-quality experience. If you would like to attend one of these events, please reach out to Events@BlueTrust.com.

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FALL 2026

Investment Perspective

Elevating Shareholders' *Impact*

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Blue Trust seeks to empower clients to wisely steward their wealth in ways that reflect their values and support Kingdom impact. Our corporate engagement program is one way we put stewardship into action—helping investors meaningfully shape culture through tools like:

- **Principled proxy voting**
- **Direct corporate dialogue**
- **Collaborative coalitions**
- **Shareholder proposals and action**

To view more corporate engagement impact stories, scan here:

Does this work actually have an impact?

The results show that it does. We have seen companies enact meaningful change on subjects like online protection for children, equity in charitable donations, and human rights risks in supply chains. This year's annual shareholder meeting cycle continues to demonstrate the potential impact engaged stewards can have.

- Engagement resulted in a commitment from Walmart, the world's largest employer, not to cover gender transition surgeries for minors under its employee health care plan. The company also stated its intention not to sell the abortion drug mifepristone in its stores.
- Engagement led Mastercard to update its code of conduct to prohibit merchants from accepting payments for AI-generated deepfake pornography involving adults or children.
- Engagement created new and ongoing conversations with resorts and hotel chains to improve their capabilities to fight human trafficking, while identifying major gaps in certain hotels that merit additional engagement.

Protecting the Vulnerable During the World Cup

As we shared in the last issue, the 2026 FIFA World Cup brought millions of people from all over the world together, but it also raised significant human trafficking risks. Estimates show that over 6 million people crossed North American borders during the 39-day event. Those same crowds can give human traffickers cover to operate in plain sight.

Blue Trust was pleased to leverage the voice of shareholders to advance the good work of several anti-trafficking nonprofits through a major World Cup engagement initiative. The initiative engaged:

- **More than 35 companies across 5 targeted sectors:** 10 hotels, 9 health care providers, 7 hospitality operators, 6 airlines, and 4 travel platforms.

The campaign pressed these companies to enhance their safety measures by including survivor-informed training, real-time risk monitoring, and stronger law enforcement partnerships. Two major operators—IHG Hotels and MGM Resorts—entered constructive dialogue as a direct result. At Wyndham Hotels, engagement identified a meaningful gap in safeguards and an incomplete response, opening the door for shareholders to elevate engagement to protect the vulnerable.

Although the tournament has ended, the necessity to strengthen safeguards against human trafficking has not. We are encouraged by the companies that have added measures to prevent, detect, and report illegal activity and will continue to press for others to put stronger safeguards in place.

Following the Money: Eagle Freedom Alliance and The Knoble

Traffickers may operate in hotels and airports, but their money moves through banks. That makes everyday financial oversight one of the earliest lines of defense.

Blue Trust joined an Eagle Freedom Alliance initiative recognizing financial institutions that have adopted new standards to combat trafficking, exploitation, and fraud. In June 2026, the alliance publicly recognized six organizations for adopting The Knoble's Human Crime Specialist Program—a framework for detecting financial crime tied to human exploitation.

- **Truist Bank**
- **Fifth Third Bank**
- **LexisNexis Risk Solutions**
- **Ally Financial**
- **Customers Bank**
- **First Citizens Bank**

Recognition matters. When institutions take these steps and are recognized for their commitment, other firms notice. We anticipate more opportunities for clients to add their voices to shareholder letters in the upcoming quarters.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." – Proverbs 31:8

Active Participation Through Proxy Voting

Every year from April through June, the majority of public companies host annual shareholder meetings. Some shareholders may not realize that if they do not vote or reassign their proxy, then fund managers often vote on their behalf.

Clients who utilize Blue Trust Access Portfolios or Vident ETFs have their votes cast according to our Principles-Based Proxy Guidelines. These guidelines are designed to evaluate proposals through fiduciary and values-aligned lenses. This proxy season, we addressed an array of subjects, including:

- Discrimination in the workforce
- Faith-based employee and community resource groups
- AI governance, data ethics, and AI-related human rights risk
- Corporate political neutrality
- Board independence and workplace health and safety

These proposals demonstrate the importance of having a like-minded investment manager and continuing to help our clients maximize their impact through their investments. To learn more about Blue Trust Access Portfolios or corporate engagement opportunities, please reach out to your advisor.

Principles-Based Investing

APPLIED WISDOM

We believe that applying principles can improve the chance of successful investment outcomes.

UNCERTAINTY

Provision against an uncertain future is a reason to save and invest.

HUMAN PRODUCTIVITY

Wealth is created as a result of human productivity. Productivity is the combination of human creativity and natural resources.

INSTABILITY

Markets and economies are not stable, and provisions against uncertainty may fail. Risk needs to be managed through diversification.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Leadership significantly influences the productivity of the people they lead. Environments with greater civil and economic freedom tend to provide increased fertile ground for investment.

INHERENT VALUE

Investors and markets are not always rational. Opportunities or risks can be identified when a disciplined valuation process is used to determine the inherent value of an investment.

THREE PILLARS OF OUR INVESTMENT APPROACH

Based on the principles to the left, the strategies we build exhibit these characteristics:

1. Growth: Markets with faster economic growth

2. Valuation: Assets priced appropriately

3. Diversification: According to your time horizon & cash flow needs

About Blue Trust

Blue Trust advisors apply biblical wisdom and technical expertise to help clients make wise financial decisions to experience clarity and confidence and leave a lasting legacy. With over $70 billion of assets under advisement and a nationwide network of 19 offices, we offer comprehensive financial services and objective advice to more than 11,500 clients across the wealth spectrum in all 50 states.

(as of 6/30/2026 and subject to change)

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