

Your guide TO THE 2023 *giving season*

Inspiration, ideas, and key
dates for year-end giving



National Christian
FOUNDATION®

Humble generosity

Amid the rush of this busy time of year, the quiet entry of the most influential person ever born is what inspires us, as Christians, to be grateful and generous.

As you prepare to give, we pray you'll use these thoughtful devotions, practical ideas, and wise strategies for sharing your time, talent, and treasure this season.

Above all, we pray this guide ignites a renewed sense of awe for the humility and selflessness of God's abundant generosity through the birth of his Son.

“A Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord ... You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



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A view from the manger

Eight hundred years ago, Francis of Assisi crafted the first nativity scene. Visiting the humble cave in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, Francis was moved by the contrast between the cave and the opulent Italian life of the time. He sought a way to help people see what he saw – the humility of Jesus' birth.

Today, we find this same scene in churches and homes ... almost everywhere. But does it invoke the humility Francis intended?

At its core, generosity is an act of humility, a spiritual practice that differs from philanthropy in this important way. Not only are the receivers blessed by your generous acts. You are, too, as you press into the purposes God has for you.

God made us to reflect his image, "to shine like stars in the universe among a crooked and perverse generation." When we are humble, he radiates in us and works through us to accomplish his purposes.

So, this year, when you see a nativity scene, let it be a reminder to live and give in a way that mirrors God's image.

Amidst empty Amazon boxes and all this year's materialism, let's remember how the King of kings arrived – in a room for animals, surrounded by a carpenter, an unwed mother, and livestock. Let's recall Jesus' humility, and find joy in emulating it.

How does the nativity scene remind you of Jesus today?

How does true generosity differ from philanthropy?

How can you infuse humility into your acts of generosity, even after Christmas?



Download the full version of this devotional for more inspiration to share with your friends and family at ncfgiving.com/christmas

10 simple acts of humility

As you prepare to celebrate this season, we hope you will be inspired by the incredible humility surrounding the gift of Jesus' birth. During the holidays and beyond, simple acts of humble generosity can be a powerful way to share the love of Christ and make a profound shift in our culture. We encourage you to consider the following suggestions in the context of God's generosity to us and hope you will use them to spark some ideas of your own.

1. Practice listening more than you talk:

At your next event, meeting, or family outing, practice intentional listening as a form of love. See what happens when you put away your phone, limit distractions, and listen patiently without the need to respond.

2. Try trading places:

What would it look like to trade places for a day with your spouse, a friend with a disability, or the lowest-paid employee at your company? Ask the Lord for opportunities to walk a mile in someone else's shoes.

3. Ask for help:

It's not easy for generous people to ask for help, but sometimes humility means accepting your own limitations. Pray for the courage to let go of the pride of self-sufficiency this season and be open to receiving.

4. Admit you were wrong:

Ouch! One of the humblest, and sometimes hardest, things to do is admit when you're wrong. But now is a great time to clear the air with a family member, friend, or coworker and start the year with a clean slate.

5. Choose gratitude with the paper chain challenge:

At your next gathering, divide into groups and ask everyone to write something they're grateful for on strips of construction paper. Link them together, and see who creates the longest chain. (Hint: Do this at Thanksgiving and use these to decorate for Christmas).

6. Relinquish control:

A subtle addiction to busyness, productivity, and achievement pervades our culture. Pray for ways to let go of work, endless activity (even if it's service-related) and the adrenaline of accomplishments.



7. Sacrifice your schedule:

If nothing is more sacred than your schedule or holiday traditions, it might be time to open your heart to opportunities for divine interruption. Start your day by sacrificing your rigid routine for God's direction.

8. Be close to the brokenhearted:

For some, the holidays only add to existing heartbreak. Think about how you can serve the elderly, widows, single parents, the hospitalized, foster kids, the homeless, prisoners, and others who are hurting.

9. Speak their language:

Use extra time with family to research other cultures, exchange students, or refugee groups near you, and learn a few simple words in their language. Then, find a volunteer opportunity to use your new phrases.

10. Plan a secret gift:

Call a local school and pay off a child's lunch fees or leave a gift card in a neighbor's mailbox. Or ask your benevolence pastor, a local ministry, or school to help you give anonymously to those in need.

He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant ...

Philippians 2:7

It is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Prayer of Saint Francis



Creative ways to maximize your Giving Fund

Besides the basics of adding money to your balance and then supporting the causes you love most, did you know about these other ways to use your fund?

Automate your giving

Instead of just one-time transactions, you can set up regular, automatic withdrawals from your bank account or credit card to go into your fund. You can also create recurring schedules so grants go to your favorite charities monthly, quarterly, or annually ... even when you're out of town or unable to log in.

Grant anonymously

When supporting a charity, you can mark your grants as anonymous, so money goes out without your name attached. It's a great way to give humbly and with complete privacy.

Discover new charities

Log in to your Giving Fund on our website to browse more than 60,000 charity profile pages organized by 58 causes, such as adoption, evangelism, and human trafficking. You can find charities, add them to your favorites list, and send them support when you're ready.

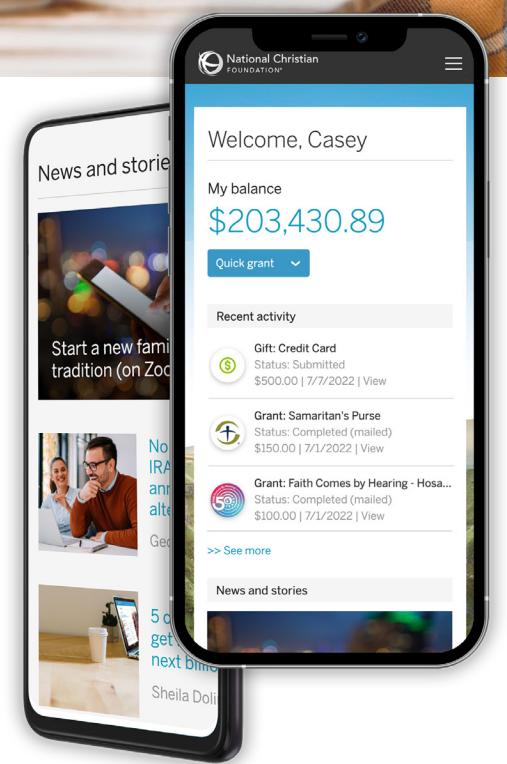
Consider bunching your gifts

You can give multiple years of charitable contributions in a single year, then grant the contributions to charities over the years you claim the standard deduction. Our team of charitable professionals is ready to help you explore such opportunities.



Leave a legacy of giving

Your fund can be a powerful tool to impact your favorite causes, even after your lifetime. Log in to your Giving Fund and go to the legacy page to create a succession plan, so your kids, grandkids, or others can carry on your legacy of giving for years to come. Also consider naming NCF as the beneficiary in your will, trust, 401(k), or other estate documents.



New to a Giving Fund?

Open one in minutes at
ncfgiving.com/givingfund

Experience the power of non-cash giving

Have you ever considered giving appreciated, non-cash assets – such as real estate, business interests, or stocks – to support the causes and charities you love most? It's a powerful and creative way you can experience ...

Expanded giving capacity – Accelerate your generosity by giving from wealth tied up in your non-cash assets, rather than cash flow.

Tax efficiency – Enjoy a potentially significant tax deduction, so you can give more to the causes you care about.

Real estate

Whether you own commercial real estate or a vacation home, you may be able to turn your valuable property into food for the hungry, Bibles for evangelism, research to fight a disease, or anything else God is calling you to support.

Considering selling?

You may potentially increase your impact by giving appreciated commercial, residential, or undeveloped property before you decide to sell. Our in-house team of charitable professionals can work with you and your advisors.

Managing property

Your income-producing real estate can become a kingdom-advancing investment with NCF. You can work with your advisors to give rental-income property, whether residential or commercial.

Download a helpful one-page sheet to learn how this works at
ncfgiving.com/realestate



Business

Whether you're considering selling your company in the future or just feeling overwhelmed by limited cash flow, you can join countless people gifting a portion of their businesses to make a bigger difference for the charitable causes you care about most.

Considering selling a company?

Many entrepreneurs who have the opportunity to sell their company for a sizable gain also have a heart to give charitably. We can work with you and your advisors to help you give a portion of your business to NCF before you decide to sell.

Learn more in our guide for business leaders at
ncfgiving.com/business

Stocks

Even in an uncertain market, many people still have one or more appreciated stocks or mutual funds in their portfolio. In most cases, you have a significant opportunity to give more and enjoy a substantial tax deduction without significantly impacting your personal cash flow.

Learn more and get started today at
ncfgiving.com/stocks

Learn more about non-cash giving in our 2-minute video at ncfgiving.com/noncash

2023 year-end giving dates to remember

There's no better time than now to start planning your year-end giving.



Nov 15: Supporting organizations

All requests for the creation of a new supporting organization must be made by this date.

Nov 30: Real estate gifts

Any real estate gifts requiring a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment must be initiated with NCF by this date.

Dec 1: Proprietary mutual funds

All proprietary mutual fund transfers must be initiated by this date.

Dec 8: New separately managed accounts (SMAs)

Any new SMAs (NCF fund assets that are separately managed by an advisor) must be set up by this date. Initiate gifts with a transfer agent by this date.

Dec 15: Grants to charities

Grant requests to approved charities must be submitted by this date if you would like a check mailed by the end of the year. Note: Grants do not have to be issued by year-end for tax purposes.

Dec 15: Publicly traded securities or E-checks

All stock and mutual fund transfers should be initiated with the transferring broker by this date. E-checks also need to be initiated by this date as well. A physical check or a wire

transfer should be considered instead of an E-check after December 15. (NCF must receive the gift by December 31 to count toward the 2023 tax year.)

Dec 15: Complex gifts

To ensure your complex gift can be completed by December 31, your asset donation form and all accompanying required documents must be received by December 15. Due to the high volume of complex gifts at the end of the year, we encourage you to submit your documents as soon as possible. We can accept your gift as early as today with an effective date of December 31, 2023. Contact our team for forms or more details

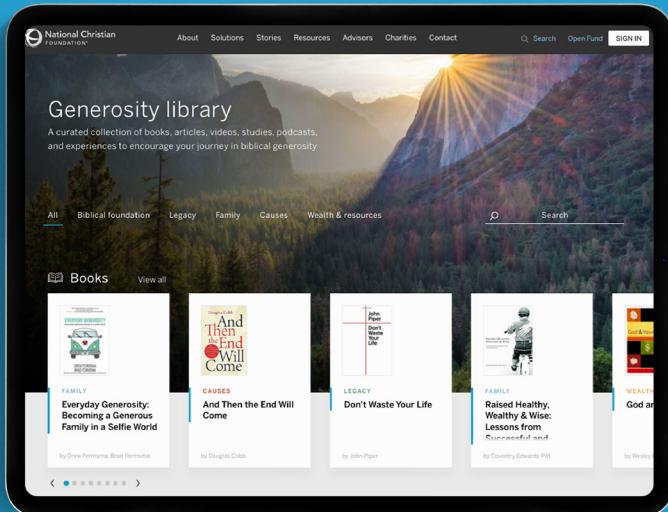
Dec 29: Cash gifts and CGAs

Physical checks must be postmarked by USPS no later than December 29.* Cash and wire transfers must be received in NCF's bank account by this date as well. Applications for charitable gift annuities (CGAs), along with physical checks, must be dated and postmarked by USPS no later than December 29,* and you must have previously received a CGA illustration with the terms on which the CGA agreement will be based. Wire transfers must also be received in NCF's bank account by this date.

*** Special note:** Because December 31, 2023, falls on a Sunday and post offices will be closed, we encourage you to be sure all of your gifts are postmarked by USPS no later than Friday, December 29, or December 30, 2023, if your post office is open on Saturday.



Download forms or contact NCF's team
with any questions at ncfgiving.com/forms



Do you know where generosity lives online?

NCF's Generosity Library is the largest collection of resources about Christian giving on the web today. Discover a rich repository of books, articles, videos, studies, podcasts, and experiences arranged by category including:

- Biblical foundation
- Legacy
- Family
- Causes
- Wealth and resources



ncfgiving.com/library