



***ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CONTRIBUTING TO
THE FRIENDS OF OLLI***

Most OLLI members and friends who contribute to the Friends of OLLI fund do so with a check or credit card. This is greatly appreciated. However, there are other ways contributions can be made which might be beneficial tax wise to the contributor. The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe several alternative methods you can use to contribute to the Friends of OLLI fund:

1. **Appreciated Securities Saves Taxes** – If you have securities (stocks and/or mutual funds) that have appreciated in value, you can have your broker or mutual fund company transfer the shares to the GMU Foundation for OLLI. This will allow you to make a generous contribution to OLLI while avoiding capital gains taxes. You will be able to deduct the full value of the securities in your itemized income tax deductions. Do not contribute securities that are a loss; sell them for the capital loss deductions and contribute the cash to OLLI.
2. **Create a Charitable Gift Fund to Reduce Your Taxable Income** – Many OLLI members have paid off their home mortgages and, therefore, are not able to claim itemized deductions in their income taxes. Several members have created charitable gift funds by transferring appreciated securities and/or other funds which enable them to itemize their tax deductions that year. They can then use those funds (which normally appreciate in value tax free) to make contributions to OLLI and other groups over several years.
3. **Gift Annuity Pays You** – You can help yourself while helping OLLI through a Charitable Gift Annuity which provides you a guaranteed income during your life time and then the funds will be given to OLLI upon your death. The George Mason Development Office can help you establish an annuity that will benefit you and OLLI.
4. **Leave a Legacy** – You can leave a contribution in your Will for OLLI. This can be money, property, securities and other assets. The GMU Development Office can share sample bequest language or give you more information on how to make a gift through a bequest.
5. **Insurance Beneficiary** – OLLI has been a beneficiary for life insurance policies. This is a tax-wise strategy for leaving a gift to OLLI while taking care of your heirs.
6. **Don't Forget Company Matching Grants** – Several OLLI members have former or current employers who provide charitable matching grants to their contributions. In some cases these are made directly to OLLI and in other cases through the GMU Foundation. Check with your company as this is a real multiplier to your contribution.

If you are interested in any of these alternative methods of contributing to the Friends of OLLI please feel free to contact the OLLI Development Chair, Lesley Bubenhofner (labubenhofner@verizon.net) or David Long at the Mason Development Office (703-993-1496). You can also use this link <http://www.gmu.edu/depts/development/index.html> get more information.

Of course, before you do anything, you may want to check with your tax adviser to make sure this action is appropriate for your circumstances.