



Christmas Giving and The Marshfield Area Community Foundation

Christmas time is the time for giving and I am debating the best gift for many of the people on my shopping list. I feel that family time is the most important gift, just being together at the holidays rather than the paper wrapped, bedazzled gifts. This year, as with many other families, we are scaling back our gift giving, and focusing on quality family time. I am going to choose something special for everyone on my list. I want to give a little something that is meaningful. I want to give something that each recipient will recognize as something that I put some work and thought into. Maybe it will be something very unique, possibly a favorite color, or for a favorite hobby - something that person will cherish. Of course this ideal gift can't cost a bundle! If my gift buying criteria aren't enough of a challenge I have another level of difficulty built into my shopping list - buying the "perfect" gift for my in-laws. What do you buy for someone who says they don't need or want anything? Let's admit it- this task gets harder every year.

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation may be able to help you (and me) with our Christmas shopping! How? You might ask. Well, many people have set up a fund in the name of a loved one, or you could make a donation to an existing fund at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation.

Let's take a look at the major types of funds available at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation- scholarship, donor advised, designated, and project specific. We have over 70 scholarship funds which benefit new graduates going on to post-secondary institutions or older students returning to school. Donor advised funds allow the donors who created them to annually recommend charitable programs or causes that they would like to support. Designated funds are funds that identify a specific charitable program and provide annual grants for its support. Some of our existing funds support Youth Net, Mary's Boarding House, YMCA, Soup or Socks, United Way, many of the area parishes, Central Chamber Chorale, the Palm Sunday Concert Choir, the Marshfield Historic Preservation Association, and The Chestnut Center for the Arts. Project specific funds are those designed to support a specific project. The fund is spent down and closed when the project is complete. The ACE Academy Fund, The Hamus Park Fund, The Baseball Stadium Fund, or the Tennis Now fund or examples of these funds.

I could see ways making a donation to many of these funds could assist my in-law's favorite charities and at the same time be a meaningful gift for them. As an extra bonus these donations are tax deductible and won't need to be returned!



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