The Importance of Year-End Giving

According to the website Giving USA, Americans donated a record $415 billion to their favorite charities in 2017. The report Giving USA 2018: Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2017 indicates that giving by individuals, which accounts for more than 60 percent of total charitable giving, rose by 5.2 percent, to about $287 billion. Foundations giving grew by 6 percent, while donations from bequests increased 2.3 percent. Corporations and foundations provide the majority of our support—nearly 80 percent of our revenue. Many charities receive 50 percent of their total yearly contributions in the last quarter of the calendar year and of that number, 40 percent in December alone.

If you are contemplating making a year-end gift to America's VetDogs by donating cash, stock, or securities to gain the full 2018 tax advantage of your donation, here are some helpful tips to follow. In most cases a charitable gift is deemed completed when control over the asset has been transferred from the donor to the charity. For gifts of cash and securities this means different things, depending on how the gift is transferred.

If you are making a contribution by credit card through our website or over the phone, and your donation is charged to your card before December 31, the donation is effective on the date mailed as indicated by the postcard bill isn't due until January 2019. If you are sending a gift by mail, the donor has effective control on the date mailed as indicated by the postcard. If the envelope is postmarked by December 31, the gift is credited to 2018 even if physically received in 2019. The postmark is the key to your deduction, not the date on the check.

If you are concerned that a gift being sent through the mail will not be received on time as a deduction on your tax return, you may physically bring the donation to our offices in Smithtown, New York. The day the gift is received at the charity is the effective date of that donation.

Many individuals choose to donate securities and stocks at the end of the year, and many of these gifts are electronically transferred to the charity directly from the donor. In the case of electronic transfers, the gift becomes effective the date the funds are reflected on the charity’s bank or brokerage account, not the date you instructed your bank or broker to make the transfer. Electronic transfers can be greatly affected by volume. The closer we get to December 31, the longer it might take to move your gift from one account to another. Generally several days. You can avoid any delay by giving yourself sufficient time to make a gift of stock or securities.

Given the far-reaching changes to the tax code that occurred in 2018, please contact your tax advisor for further information. For more information about ways you can support America's VetDogs, visit VetDogs.org or call 631-930-9057; Katherine@GuideDog.org.

Now is a great time to make an IRA Charitable Rollover!

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover?

• It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the donation is拉动
• It may prevent you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket, and help you avoid the limit on charitable deductions.
• It is easy to make – simply notify your IRA custodian.
• It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the gift is from your assets, not your checkbook.

Why should you consider this gift option?

• The gifts counts against your required minimum distribution for the year.
• The gift is excluded from taxable income, which is a huge tax benefit.
• It may prevent you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket, and help you avoid the limit on charitable deductions.
• It is easy to make – simply notify your IRA custodian.
• It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the gift is from your assets, not your checkbook.

When Althiser returned home from his deployment in Afghanistan, he began to think about leaving the Marine Corps. An assignment change convinced him to remain, but in service, so he worked hard to get a new assignment.

In the next issue of the VetDogs Sentinel, we’ll learn about how Althiser dealt with the aftermath of his deployment, the choice he made, and his decision to get a service dog.

An athlete, he was an aspiring soccer player at the collegiate level. As high school graduation loomed, though, he wondered how he would pay for college. He had hopes for a sports scholarship, but when that didn’t come to pass, he decided time to consider his other options. His father had been a Marine, and on some level, Althiser says, “I looked forward to remaining in the service, but something was different now. I began to think about leaving the Marine Corps.”

When Althiser was stationed in the States, life continued. “I started dating [my wife],” he worked out incessantly. “I made great friends, got married, and had my first daughter.”

In 2007, he transferred to Expeditionary Warfare School and following graduation returned to Twentynine Palms, California. He served there until 2009 to 2010. His company was due to be deployed once again to Iraq as a provisional MP company. However, while they were on pre-deployment survey in Iraq, he found out they were no longer going to Afghanistan instead.

“I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself.

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After his return home from deployment, Althiser took his family’s road trip to look for a place to live. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself. “I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan would be the chance to “redeem” himself.

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As Chad Althiser tells it, he had a “typical, small-town American childhood” growing up in a small rural Upstate New York town. An athlete, he was an aspiring soccer player at the collegiate level. As high school graduation loomed, though, he wondered how he would pay for college. He had hopes for a sports scholarship, but when that didn’t come to pass, it was time to consider his other options. His father had been a Marine, and on some level, Althiser says, “I looked forward to remaining in the service, but something was different now. I began to think about leaving the Marine Corps.”
The holidays are upon us, and the new year just around the corner. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of all that we have accomplished. It is a theme I refer to often when sharing our goals and strategies, and our funders and donors. After receiving the GuideStar Platinum Seal, GuideStar’s highest rating, we've moved forward to increase our transparency for our funders and donors. Because their support is central to what we do.

We've moved forward to increase our transparency for our funders and donors. After receiving the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency in June, we recently achieved the Platinum Seal. GuideStar’s top rating. Platinum Seal means that in addition to showing our commitment to short-term goals and strategies, we also share how our progress and the results of our efforts make on people’s lives.

Veterans Dogs is a true 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For the new year just around the corner, the Foundation to the next anniversary of our premier event for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for anyone interested in knowing more about us.

Vet Dogs serves veterans of all eras, and this year, we placed service dog Sully with President George H.W. Bush, a World War II Navy veteran. Sully was trained by the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International. These assessments evaluate our standards for the humane and ethical treatment of the dogs in our programs, maintain educational benchmarks for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for trainers and the application and acceptance process. We look forward to increasing our transparency for our funders and donors because their support is central to what we do.

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The Jones begin

Althiser served as an aircrewmember and simultaneously enrolled in college. "I was a flight mechanic on KC-130s to Iraq in the new year. In January, as he and a friend began training for their Iraq mission.

By fall of 2002, Althiser knew he would be deploying. It was a fairly quiet deployment. He says, "I had one incident that was 'profound,' but nothing was a curve ball."

Nonetheless, "We went back by a different route to be with the people we had done something important."

It was the start of a 20-year journey. "I don’t know how long it took me to figure out the heat, but it looked like three days of calling me, he thought. He delivered the in-vehicle ammunition to the vehicle behind him "shocked the hell out of my vehicle." Althiser says. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He had not been deployed to Afghanistan. He returned home from Afganistan. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He delivered the in-vehicle ammunition to the vehicle behind him "shocked the hell out of my vehicle." Althiser says. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He returned home from Afganistan. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He returned home from Afganistan. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He returned home from Afganistan. He was certain his driver had been blown out of the vehicle. He returned home from Afganistan. 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Chad Althiser continued from page 3
challenged both physically and mentally, and “I thought maybe the Marine Corps Reserve would give me the opportunity to still pursue a college degree,” he says. “It was the start of a 20-year journey. “I don’t know if I ever made a conscious decision to become a Marine. I just had a couple careers,” he laughs, “but when opportunities came along to get out, I was like, ‘No, I will not.’ There was another challenge or opportunity ahead.”

At the time of his retirement, Althiser had attained the rank of major.

The journey begins
Althiser served as an air crewman and additionally provided security for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for placing service dog Sully with President George H.W. Bush, a World War II veteran. Sully was trained to become a service dog for a disabled veteran. They’re using to name a male puppy PJ. PJ will follow a service dog curriculum to become a service dog for a disabled veteran. Althiser had announced his retirement on Oct. 14. PHOTO BY ANNE CUMMINGS

Chad Althiser retired with his daughter after a successful return home from Afghanistan.

Deployment Number Two
After about a year and a half, Althiser was deployed once again to Iraq. This would prove to be a significantly different experience from his first. Instead of going as an artillery company, he was assigned to the Marine Corps base at Twenty-nine Palms, California. It was from Twenty-nine Palms that he was first deployed to Okinawa, Japan, from February until August 2002.

Deployment Number One
By Oct. 30, 2002, Althiser knew he would be deploying to Iraq in the new year. In January, as a hand and a friend were helping out to drive the gun, they recalled a similar incident. “We went back to base, got our admittance shot, and finished packing,” he recalls. “Then we went to Marine Air Base Brawley, and then to Camarillo Army Base. Althiser realized an IED (improvised explosive device) was detonated behind them. As he stumbled out of control. “I don’t know how long it took for me to yell, but it took three times of me calling his name, but it took three times of me calling his name, but it took three times of me calling his name before he put his foot on the brake and we stopped.”

Althiser added to the CEQ improved explosive detector had been detonated behind them. He froze completely. “I know it was just the ammunition in the vehicle ‘cooking off’ – exploding due to the heat. The next thing he remembers is a Humvee pulling up alongside them. “We got the injured Marine loaded

One of the most rewarding things I've come to appreciate is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission. It is a theme I refer to often as leaders in the assistance dog movement. We measure our progress and the results our efforts make on people’s lives.

In this issue of The VetDogs Insider, you’ll read about retired Marine Major Chad Althiser; our annual golf outing, which is our premier fundraising event; the Long Island Run and Dog Walk; and how your year-end gift can change the life of a veteran.

As we prepare for 2019, we wish you and those close to you a safe and healthy new year. Thank you for your support!

John Miller President & Chief Executive Officer

Our fourth annual Long Island Run and Dog Walk featured a hot and humid summer day, but that didn’t stop more than 400 registrants from coming to enjoy the ninth annual Huntington Country Club Run and Walk to Benefit Huntington Village Restoration in support of VetDogs and disabled veteran. Patrick M. Loupe, a Huntington Village resident and retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, has been the event’s director since 2007. John Miller, a resident of Huntington, is the event’s chair. Photo by William Krol

Welcome Our New Team Members

The holidays are upon us, and the new year just around the corner. This is the perfect time to reflect on the past year. I joined the staff at the beginning of September, so I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the past year and the progress our organization has made.

In October and November, we underwent assessment by the International Guide Dog Foundation and Assistance Dogs International. These evaluations are crucial in ensuring that we continue to meet the high standards for the humane and ethical treatment of the dogs in our programs, maintain educational benchmarks for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for placing dogs with the recipients during the application and acceptance process. We look forward to the outcomes of these assessments.

At the beginning of September, we achieved another milestone: the Golden Seal of Transparency in June, we recently achieved. These assessments evaluate our financial health and governance and are a measure of our commitment to financial responsibility and accountability.

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A Message From Our President & CEO

The holidays are upon us, and the new year just around the corner. As we reflect on the year that just passed, I am acutely aware of the importance of our mission. It is a theme I refer to often – appreciation is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission. It is a theme I refer to often – appreciation is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission. It is a theme I refer to often – appreciation is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission.

In October and November, we undertook assessments by the International Guide Dog Foundation and Assistance Dogs International. These assessments evaluate our operations to ensure we consistently follow the highest standards for the humane and ethical treatment of the dogs in our programs, maintain educational benchmarks for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place for consumers during the application and acceptance process. We look forward to the results of this process.

One of the most important things I’ve come to appreciate is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission. It is a theme I refer to often – appreciation is the commitment of our donors, volunteers, and staff to our mission.

We’ve moved forward to increase our transparency for our funders and donors. After receiving the Gold Seal of Transparency in June, we recently achieved the Platinum Seal, GuideStar’s highest rating.

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In March, ready to reflect on the past year. I joined the board of directors to take VetDogs to the next level as leaders in the assistance dog movement.

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Individual donors, planned legacy gifts, and family foundations and trusts provide the majority of our support; nearly 70 percent of our revenue.

Marine Charities receive 59 percent of their total annual contributions in the last quarter of a calendar year. In that number, 40 percent are found in December alone.

If you are contemplating making a year-end gift to America’s VetDogs by donating cash, stock, or securities to gain the full 2018 tax advantage of your donation, here are some helpful tips to follow:

1. Make a charitable contribution by credit card through our website or over the phone, and your donation is credited to your card before December 31, so it will count for 2018. This is true even if your credit card bill isn’t due until January 2019.

2. If you are sending a gift by mail, the donation is effective on the date mailed as indicated by the postmark. If the envelope is postmarked by December 31, the gift is credited to 2018 even if postmarked in 2019. The postmark is the key to your donation, not the date on the check.

3. If you are concerned that a gift being sent through the mail will not be received in time to be recorded as a deduction on your tax return, you may physically bring the donation to our offices in Smithtown, New York. The day the gift is received at the charity is the effective date of that donation.

4. Marine Charities do not provide the gift of securities in cash; if you are donating these items, they are electronically transferred to the charity directly from the donor.

5. Be sure electronic transfers are effective the date the funds are reflected on the charity’s bank or brokerage account. Not the date you instructed your bank or broker to make the transaction. The gift becomes effective the date the funds are reflected on the charity in 2018 even if we physically receive the gift in 2019.

If you are concerned that a gift being sent through the mail will not be received in time to be recorded as a deduction on your tax return, you may physically bring the donation to our offices in Smithtown, New York. The day the gift is received at the charity is the effective date of that donation.

Many individuals choose to donate securities and stocks at the end of the year, and many of these gifts are electronically transferred to the charity directly from the donor.

If you are considering making a year-end gift to America’s VetDogs, here are some helpful tips to follow:

1. Make a charitable contribution by credit card to our website or over the phone, and your donation is credited to your card before December 31, so it will count for 2018. This is true even if your credit card bill isn’t due until January 2019.

2. If you are sending a gift by mail, the donation is effective on the date mailed as indicated by the postmark. If the envelope is postmarked by December 31, the gift is credited to 2018 even if postmarked in 2019. The postmark is the key to your donation, not the date on the check.

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The Importance of Year-End Giving

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover?

- It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the money you receive is not taxable.
- It is easy to make – simply notify your IRA administrator.
- It may prevent you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket, and help you avoid the limit is a nice tax benefit.
- This strategy works whether you itemize or not.

If you are an IRA holder, America’s VetDogs is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For more information about ways you can support VetDogs, please contact Katherine Fritz, our director of development, at 631-303-0657; Katherine@GuideDog.org

Chad Althiser (continued from page 4)

When Althiser returned home from his deployment in Afghanistan, he began to think about leaving the Marine Corps. An assignment change convinced him to remain, but it was something different. In December 2017, he joined the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory.

In the next issue of the VetDogs Sentinel we’ll learn about Althiser’s experience and decision to get a service dog.

Marine Major Chad Althiser served in the United States Marine Corps for more than 20 years, including three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Those deployments became changed man. Althiser had been very open about sharing his journey through post-traumatic stress disorders. In 2017, he was partnered with service dog Mikey, who has become a vital part of his movement forward. In part one, we met Althiser and learned about his path to serving a purpose greater than myself.

As Chad Althiser tells it, he had a typical, small-town American childhood growing up in a small rural Upstate New York town.

An athlete, he was an aspiring soccer player at the collegiate level. As high school graduation loomed, though, he wondered where he would pay for college. He had hopes for a sports scholarship, but when that didn’t come to pass, it set him to consider his other options.

His father had been a Marine, and on some level, Althiser says, “I looked forward to serving a purpose greater than myself.”

Unfortunately, it didn’t work out that way.

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The Importance of Year-End Giving

According to the website Giving USA, Americans donated a record $415 billion to their favorite charities in 2017. The report Giving USA 2018: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2017 indicates that giving by individuals, which accounts for 60 percent of all donations, rose by 5.2 percent, to about $287 billion. Foundation giving grew by 6 percent, while donations from bequests increased 2.3 percent. Corporations’ donations, rose by 5.2 percent, to about $287 billion. Individual donors, planned giving, and family foundations and trusts provide the majority of our support—nearly 30 percent of our revenue. Many charities receive 59 percent of their total yearly contributions in the last quarter of a calendar year, and that number, 40 percent in December alone.

If you are contemplating making a year-end gift to America’s VetDogs by donating cash, stock, or securities to gain the full 2018 tax advantage of your donation, here are some helpful tips to follow. In most cases, a charitable gift is deemed completed when control over the asset has been transferred from the donor to the charity. For gifts of cash and securities this means different things, depending on how the gift is transferred.

If you are making a contribution by credit card through our website or over the phone, and your donation is your card on your December 31, at 12:01 a.m. This is true even if your credit card bill isn’t due until January 2019.

If you are sending a gift by mail, the donation is effective on the date marked as indicated by the postmark. If the envelope is postmarked by December 31, the gift is deemed made in December even if physically in the post office in January. In 2019, the postmark is the key to your deduction, not the date on the check.

If you are a person that gifted cash being sent through the mail will not be received on time to use as a deduction on your tax return, you may physically bring the donation to our office in Smithtown, New York. The day the gift is received at the charity is the effective date of that donation.

Many individuals choose to donate securities and stocks at the end of the year, and many of those gifts are electronically transferred to the charity directly from the custodian.

It is easy to make—simply notify your IRA custodian.

It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the gift is from your assets, not your paycheck.

Now is a great time to make an IRA Charitable Rollover!

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover?

• If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to $100,000 from your IRA (traditional or Roth) to support the Guide Dog Foundation.

• This strategy works whether you itemize or not.

Why should you consider this gift option?

• It minimizes the effect on your cash flow; the gift is from your assets, not your paycheck.

• It may prevent you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket, and help you avoid the limit on charitable deductions.

• This strategy works whether you itemize or not.

• If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to $100,000 from your IRA (traditional or Roth) to support the Guide Dog Foundation.

How to make it happen

1. Contact your IRA custodian to request a gift. You may already have a form to complete for a charitable rollover. If not, they will give you one.

2. Sometimes you can make a gift online by following the “Transferring funds” link on your account. If more than $5,000 is involved, you will have to mail the gift. Ask your IRA custodian to guide you through the procedure.

3. If you are making a contribution by credit card through our website or over the phone, and your donation is your card on your December 31, at 12:01 a.m. This is true even if your credit card bill isn’t due until January 2019.

4. If you are sending a gift by mail, the donation is effective on the date marked as indicated by the postmark. If the envelope is postmarked by December 31, the gift is deemed made in December even if physically in the post office in January. In 2019, the postmark is the key to your deduction, not the date on the check.

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The VetDogs Sentinel is the official newsletter of America’s VetDogs, a non-profit that provides service dogs to disabled and disenfranchised veterans and their families. P.O. Box 1306, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0130. Web: VetDogs.org

Chad Althiser (continued from page 4) up” and returned to the forward operating base.

The unit re-stated its mission, but Althiser’s overwhelming feeling was one of disappointment. “I felt like I was the only Marine” for not acting enough in the situation. He had “a lot of self-doubt” about his command as an officer.

Upon his return from Iraq, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Security Force Command in King’s Bay, Georgia, and was promoted to captain.

Deployment Number Three

For the next four years, Althiser was stationed back in the States. Life continued: “I started dating my wife, I worked out incessantly, I trained good friends, got married, and had my first daughter.”

In 2007, he transferred to Expeditionary Warfare School and following graduation returned to Twentynine Palms, California. He served there through 2009 to 2010. His company was due to be deployed once again to Iraq as a provisional MP company. However, while they were on pre-deployment survey in Iraq, they found out they were going to go to Afghanistan instead.

“I was pretty excited to go,” he says; Afghanistan was a nice tax benefit. “I had failed my Marines” for not acting fast enough in the situation. He had “a lot of self-doubt” about his command as an officer.

When Althiser returned home from his deployment in Afghanistan, he began to think about leaving the Marine Corps. An assignment change convinced him to remain in the service, but something was different now.

In the next issue of the VetDogs Sentinel, we’ll learn about how Althiser dealt with the aftermath of his deployment, the choices he made, and his decision to get a service dog.

Marine Major Chad Althiser served in the United States Marine Corps for more than 20 years, including three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Those deployments have changed him. Althiser has been very open about sharing his journey through post-traumatic stress disorder in 2017, he was partnered with service dog Mickey, who has become a vital part of his movement forward. In part one, we’ll meet Althiser and learn about his journey.

As Chad Althiser tells it, he had a “typical, small-town American” childhood growing up in a small rural Upstate New York town.

An athlete, he was an aspiring soccer player at the collegiate level. As high school graduation loomed, though, he wondered how he would pay for college. He had hopes for a sports scholarship, but when that didn’t come to pass, it was time to consider his other options.

His father had been a Marine, and on some level, Althiser says, “I looked forward to serving a purpose greater than myself.”

So at the age of 18, he joined the Marines to fulfill his desire to serve and be

(continued on page 6)