

**Tax Tip**  
**Week of January 19, 2009**

**Charitable Donations – Gifts of Personal Use Property**

Although charitable donations are normally cash or securities, it is possible to donate personal use property, such as a vehicle or furniture. It is not possible to get a tax credit for a donation of services. In order to make such a donation, the recipient charitable organization must be prepared to accept the property and issue a receipt for fair market value. Many such potential donations do not qualify as the property has not been appropriately appraised.

This option may be an excellent alternative, when an elderly individual dies and there is no obvious heir for certain personal use property. The property must be appraised so used clothing etc. may not qualify.