We want to be sure you're aware of a couple of great ways to leverage your giving at year's end and lift up Christ in the inner city:

1. IRA Rollover

If you are age 70½ or older, you can transfer up to $100,000 from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity, like Cru® serving the inner city, without adding a penny to your taxable income — while receiving tax benefits that don’t require you to itemize on your tax return. Plus, if you're age 72 or older, a rollover gift from your IRA will also count toward your required minimum distributions!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Scott Mesker at 501-350-0121 or scott.mesker@cru.org today.

2. You can also be advantageous for you to donate appreciated assets, such as stocks or property.

You receive a charitable giving deduction for the fair market value of the asset (up to 30% of your adjusted gross income) if you have owned the asset over 12 months.

You will likely avoid capital gains tax that you would pay on the appreciation if you sold the asset.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Scott Mesker at 501-350-0121 or scott.mesker@cru.org today. Thank you for your partnership in reaching the inner city for Christ!

Two great ways to maximize your work for Christ's Kingdom

Make an even GREATER impact at year's end

No Hungry Children
This Thanksgiving

Monica is one of many volunteers assembling Boxes of Love® at our Agile Center in Chicago — amazing because just a few short years earlier, Monica and her four children didn’t have enough food for a Thanksgiving meal.

They received a Box of Love® delivered by volunteers from a neighborhood church — and their lives changed forever!

Monica and her children began attending church. The children got involved in the youth ministry. Eventually, Monica and her four children all trusted Christ!

She is overwhelmed today by how different her family is. Her young son, Roy, for example, has become a prayer warrior! When another boy was mean to him recently, Roy’s response was to pray for him.

And it all began — by God’s grace — with a Box of Love!

As you read these words, another child is hungry. Another family like Monica’s needs Jesus. Every $45.40 you give will provide a Box of Love with an abundance of holiday food, more than enough to feed a family of six.

Please be the hands and feet of Jesus by giving freely to help hungry children and families — and share the transforming love of God through the gift of food. Thank you.

Hungrу for Jesus

He was ready to go.

Eugene showed up for the meeting armed with his brand new — and first ever — Bible, a gift from one of the pastors at Great is Thy Faithfulness Church. As soon as he plopped down at the table, he opened the Scriptures and whipped out a highlighter. Eugene was there to learn ... and he meant business!

That fledgling faith started just a couple of months earlier after Great is Thy Faithfulness teamed up with Cru® serving in the inner city to distribute Boxes of Love® — containing all the ingredients to make a Thanksgiving meal for six, plus the gospel booklet Knowing God Personally.

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The neighborhood was tough. Eugene’s brother’s health was failing. Eugene was hungry for food ... and the gospel.

Eugene agreed to meet them again at a coffee shop. He was ready to go.

On the way home, Eugene met a couple from California to care for his brother with dementia.

Continued inside...
When it comes to handcrafting furniture, woodworkers often reach for mahogany, noted for its straight grain and durable nature. Those same characteristics also become 20-year-olds. Mahogany, who first arrived at the Agape Center S.A.Y. program as “shy, bashful, different, shy and unsure of myself.” Her bad attitude, she shared, often landed her in trouble.

Then she met Jesus through the after-school program offered more than tutoring, games, and they help me with my homework. I was doing really good!”

“Now, I want to give back what I received as a child,” Mahogany shared. “Now, I want to give back what I received as a child.” Mahogany spent most of her childhood with her grandmother, who enrolled her in S.A.Y. Yes! The after-school program offered more than tutoring. Bible instruction, crafts, games, and snacks. It provided healthy roots for Mahogany to experience growth.

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She’s a new creation ... 

When it comes to handcrafting furniture, woodworkers often reach for mahogany, noted for its rich and distinctive color and texture. Mahogany still comes to the Center two days a week to volunteer. She helps in the early childhood education department. Her skill and patience allow her to produce beautiful furniture. She received a nutrition and mental health award for her work.

Mahogany shared. “I love working at the Agape Center. It’s a great place to be, and I enjoy helping others. The people here are so welcoming and supportive. It’s a wonderful opportunity to give back and be a part of something larger than myself.”

Young people who visit the Agape Center often comment on how welcoming and supportive the staff are. They feel like they are part of a community that cares about them and their well-being.

When asked what she values most about the Center, Mahogany said, “It’s the people here. They are kind and sincere. Everyone is willing to lend a helping hand when needed.”

She added, “I’ve made some great friends here, and I feel like I’m part of a family. It’s a place where I can feel safe and valued.”

Thank you for providing a refuge for inner-city children like Mahogany. You are making a difference in their lives.
When it comes to handicrafts, woodworkers often reach for mahogany, noted for its straight grain and durable nature. Those same characteristics also describe 20-year-old Mahogany, who first arrived at the Agape Center S.A.Y. Yes! program as “shy, brainy, different, shy and unsure of myself.” Her bad attitude, she shared, often landed her in trouble.

Then she met Jesus through the after-school Youth Development, where pastor's divorce. She was mentored and discipled the young student, walking her neighborhood to all these unique children.”

Nearly 50 centers nationwide are transforming young lives and, in turn, their neighborhoods, too. Mahogany spent most of her childhood with her grandmother, who enrolled her in S.A.Y. Yes! The after-school program offered more than tuition. Bible instruction, crafts, games, and snacks. It provided healthy roots for Mahogany to experience the inner city, which provides much-needed resources, like school supplies and gospel literature for children. There, in the middle of the bustling java joint, Mahogany now volunteers twice a week, pouring nearly 30 hours into her volunteerism.

She’s a new creation ... Thanks to Jesus and YOU!

“Sometimes when I walk home from school I see drug dealers around the corner,” Derrick said. “They try to sell to me.”

Nearly 50 centers nationwide are transforming young lives and, in turn, their neighborhoods, too. While there is a strong emphasis on academics and character building, there is also downtime for fun. The program is a joint venture between local church partners and Cru® working in the inner city, which provides much-needed resources, like Powerpacks®, brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies and gospel literature for children. Mahogany shared. “I want to say thank you to the Agape Center for being there for me spiritually and physically.”

Safety and Freedom at S.A.Y. Yes! 

There, in the middle of the bustling java joint, Mahogany now volunteers twice a week, pouring nearly 30 hours into her volunteerism.

Antonio lives in a difficult neighborhood, ruled by drugs and gangs.

“Sometimes when I walk home from school I see drug dealers around the corner,” Derrick said. “They try to sell to me.”

He’s constantly looking over his shoulder “I wish it would stop so I could feel safe walking home,” he said.

While Antonio can’t control the streets, he found safety and freedom at the local safe place provided by S.A.Y. Yes! Centers for Youth Development, where he receives nutritious meals and mentoring after school.

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Families have even split between genders, and generational splits, gulfs vertically has been established through a personal relationship with Christ, it is now demonstrated horizontally with fellow image bearers, whether we like it or not, they exist. Whether or not our work is aligned is irrelevant.
No Hungry Children
This Thanksgiving

Moneca is one of many volunteers assembling Boxes of Love® at our Agape Center in Chicago — amazing because just a few short years earlier, Moneca and her children didn’t have enough food for a Thanksgiving meal.

But they received a Box of Love® delivered by volunteers from a neighborhood church — and their lives changed forever.

Moneca and her children began attending church. Eventually, Moneca and her four children all trusted Christ!

She is overwhelmed today by how different her family is. Her young son, Roy, for example, has become a prayer warrior! When another boy was mean to him recently, Roy’s response was to pray for him.

And it all began — by God’s grace — with a Box of Love!

As you read these words, another child is hungry. Another family like Moneca’s needs Jesus. Every $43.40 you give will provide a Box of Love with an abundance of holiday food, more than enough to feed a family of six.

Please be the hands and feet of Jesus by giving freely to help hungry children and families and share the transforming love of God through the gift of food. Thank you.

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Thank you for your partnership in reaching the inner city for Christ!
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This Thanksgiving, we want to be sure you’re aware of a couple of great ways to leverage your giving at year’s end and lift up Christ in the inner city:

1. IRA Rollover

If you are age 70½ or older, you can transfer a direct transfer of the amount you choose as a qualified charitable distribution — with no tax consequences. Plus, if you’re age 72 or older, a rollover gift from your IRA will also count toward your required minimum distributions!

This kind of gift also counts toward your adjusted gross income — while receiving tax benefits from your IRA.

2. Donate appreciated assets

You will likely avoid capital gains tax that you would pay on the appreciation if you sold the asset. You can donate appreciated assets, such as stocks or property.

You receive a charitable giving deduction for the fair market value of the asset (up to 30% of your adjusted gross income) if you have owned the asset over 12 months.

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