



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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CELEBRATING 163 YEARS OF MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

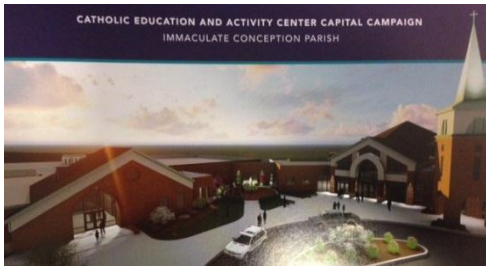
The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

November 11, 2016

V. 42 #22

THE JOY OF LOVE

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



Update on the Capital Campaign for our new Catholic Education and Activity Center

Joe Hederman will do a third training for us at 7:00 on **November 17** in the Garden Level of the Church. Be there for us! Meeting new people is good for you and us. Christians of other traditions or tuition families are welcome to join us too!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Last year we raised \$7,500; \$4,500 raised in 2014. This year: The Trivia Night chairpersons would like to give a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who came out last Saturday night. This was record event with 32 tables raising **\$10,500!!!** We had a blast and hope everyone did too. Shout out to Bob Wachtel for his outstanding job emceeing and to Greg Sheehan and Chuck Hoeflinger for selling a record number 50/50 tickets. Thank you also to those who helped us move chairs on Friday night, set up, sell booze raffle tickets and those who stayed late to help clean up. We appreciate all the support in making it a successful event for ICS. A special thanks to our 'student runners' for the evening – you did a great job: Isabella Frasure, Samantha Glasscock, Andrew Harmon, Stephen Johns, Kyra Newton, Noah Newton, Allison Stark, Brian Stark, Jacob Whitworth

And we couldn't have done it without the support of our Trivia Night sponsors. Thank you to all these fabulous businesses that helped to make our Trivia Night a success! **Please remember to support these local businesses:**

TJD (Teresa Dorshorst) business services
Khoury Pharmacy
Family Practice Associates
Illini Pediatrics
ASAP Development
Doyle Orthodontics
McGuire Moving and Storage
Karen Lundy Counseling
Suite Hair Salon
Summit Sign and Graphics

First Class Workforce Solutions
Athletico Physical Therapy
Hentscher- Johnson Orthodontics
Mandy McGuire Real Estate
Crawford- Butz Insurance
Family Hospice
Herzog- Crebs Law Firm
Megan Gilbreth Attorney at Law
Glasscock Family

Special thanks to Jessica Wachtel, Jessica Sheehan, and Tammy Hoeflinger for all their efforts chairing the Trivia Night! And to the Fathers Club for logistics!!

My-O-My-O-My How much you do!

Parents and Friends

The Parents & Friends organization exists to support Immaculate Conception School. In partnership with the administration, faculty and pastor, we provide financial support and volunteer assistance to make ICS a stronger school. We help build connections among parents to help make ICS a warm, caring community.

SCRIP	Box Tops	Schoola Clothing Drive	Soup Labels
Restaurant Fundraisers	Entertainment Books	Field Day T-Shirts	Laser Tag FUNdraiser
Festfall Face Painting	Square 1 Art	Uniform Resale	Trivia Night
Craft Fair	Craft Fair Cookie Booth	Basket Raffle @ Craft Fair	Father-Daughter Dance
Mother-Son Wacky Warrior	Dinner Auction	5K run/walk	Bounce U FUNdraiser



Parents & Friends November 14, 2016 7 pm Tiny's Restaurant
Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

II. Secretary's Report - Christy Hornacek

III. Treasurer's Report – Joyce Randle

IV. Teacher's Report – Mrs. Meyer

V. Principal's Report – Mr. Kish

VI. Old Business

- Schoola, Jessica Wachtel
- Laser Tag, Lisa Patton
- PST Conferences dinner - Teacher Appreciation, Sarah Thieret
- Trivia Night, Jessica Wachtel, Jessica Sheehan, Tammy Hoeflinger
- Ministry Fair, Kate Kienzle

VII. New Business

- Square 1 Art, Jolene Sasser
- ICS Craft Fair/Cookie Booth/Basket Raffle, Holly Blaskiewicz
- Teacher Christmas collection, Lynetta Newton
- Dinner Auction, Mandy McGuire
- ICS 5K, Holly Blaskiewicz
- Mother/Daughter Event, Mandy McGuire & Tricia Haywood
- Father/Son Event, Mandy/Josh McGuire & Kory Haywood
- Eating Out for ICS, Tricia Haywood

VIII. New Ideas to Discuss

IX. Next Meetings

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| - DECEMBER 12, 2016 | Mokka | 180 Columbia Centre | 7:00 pm |
| Bring a wrapped ornament for our annual game of bad santa! | | | |
| - JANUARY 9, 2017 | West Park Bowl | 1101 Valmeyer Rd | 7:00 pm |
| - FEBRUARY 13, 2017 | Merz on Main | 210 S Main St | 7:00 pm |
| - MARCH 13, 2017 | Who Dat's | 123 S Main St | 7:00 pm |
| - APRIL 10, 2017 | Joe Boccardi's | 117 S Main St | 7:00 pm |
| - MAY 8, 2017 | Tequila's | 850 Columbia Center | 7:00 pm |

X. Closing Prayer

ICS DINNER AUCTION please [click to see the flyer](#) and get the date on your schedule. Planning for success makes it happen a lot easier.

GROWING THE ARTS AT ICS



Immaculate Conception School in Columbia is partnering with COCA -the Center for Creative Arts in St. Louis to grow learning by growing the arts. COCAedu is a nationally recognized model of excellence for arts education. Since 1992, the program has provided arts programming to thousands of students and dedicated educators throughout the St. Louis region, breaking through economic and transportation barriers. ICS teachers Christine Matrisotto and Beth Carrow are participating in the COCAedu Cohort which is a professional



development opportunity designed to engage a community of like-minded, arts-centered classroom educators. This initiative strives to develop arts integration strategies, influence teaching practice, and undertake capacity building efforts through coaching, building expertise and infrastructure in schools. *Arts integration incorporates the arts throughout the learning process by infusing some form of art, such as theatre, music, dance, drawing, poetry, or other expression of creativity, into the core curriculum. It is experiential in nature and encourages "learning by doing." Using arts and cultural resources to expand the ways teachers teach and students learn has been proven to achieve measurable results. Arts integration also helps develop the whole child, ensuring a well-rounded education.*

Immaculate Conception School has made a major effort to integrate the arts into education and maximize learning including "Focus Five" as a student-centered approach to "owning their education".



Fr. Linus said to us today, "The kingdom of God comes to us through love and charity." So true. Be ready to hear our children's choir lead our Thursday liturgies in song weekly for the all-school mass. God is good!

Welcome to Bryson Schanuel who joined us in Pre-K yesterday.

MOCK ELECTION---results for Grade 5-8

Results of 2016 ICS BUILDERS CLUB Mock Election 70.5% of Grades 5-8 voted.

President of United States

Republican: Donald Trump / Mike Pence -- 61 votes
Democratic: Hillary Clinton / Timothy Kaine -- 16 votes
Green: Jill Stein / Ajamu Baraka -- 5 votes
Libertarian: Gary Johnson / Bill Weld -- 2 votes

United States Senator

Republican: Mark Kirk -- 55 votes
Democratic: Tammy Duckworth -- 20 votes
Green: Scott Summers -- 8 votes
Libertarian: Kenton McMillen -- 3 votes

Comptroller

Republican: Leslie Munger -- 46 votes

Democratic: Susana Mendoza -- 16 votes
Green: Tim Curtain -- 13 votes
Libertarian: Claire Ball -- 10 votes

Congressional

Republican: Mike Bost -- 59 votes
Democratic: Charles Baricevic -- 19 votes
Green: Paula Bradshaw -- 6 votes

Proposed Amendment of Section 11 to Article 9 of IL Constitution

Yes: 67 votes
No: 6 votes

Legislative

Republican: Paul Schimpf -- 56 votes
Democratic: Sheila Simon -- 18 votes

Representative in General Assembly

Republican: No Candidate
Democratic: Jerry Costello -- 68 votes

Prairie Dupont Trustees

Democratic: Michael Sullivan -- 32 votes
Democratic: Jule Levin -- 14 votes
Democratic: Randy Bolle -- 16 votes
Democratic: Michael Lindhorst -- 11 votes
Democratic: David Walster -- 8 votes

County Clerk

Republican: Lisa Fallon -- 64 votes
Democratic: Sandra Sauget -- 17 votes

State's Attorney

Republican: Chris Hitzemann -- 63 votes
Democratic: Heather Dabler -- 24 votes

County Coroner

Republican: Bob Hill -- 65 votes
Democratic: Cassy Goldschmidt -- 5 votes

County Commissioner

Republican: Vicki Koerber -- 58 votes
Democratic: Leopold Stephan -- 23 votes

SCHOLASTIC BOWL TRYOUTS WILL BE NOVEMBER 14TH – 16TH. Monday, November 14th from 3 – 3:45pm will be for 6th – 8th graders interested in trying out. Tuesday, November 15th from 3 – 4:30pm will be for 7th & 8th graders only, and Wednesday, November 16th from 3 – 4pm will be for 6th graders only. The Scholastic Bowl team is limited to 15 players for State competition. We will be taking a total of 20 players this season. Scholastic Bowl is a large time commitment beginning in late November and ending in early May with practices or matches two nights a week. Scholastic Bowl team members must have a wide array of knowledge, be able to think quickly on their feet, and be a team player.

Joy of love tee shirts this week---Caroline Roche, William Reed, Riley McGill, Zack Harrington

Parents---- **LUNCH PAYMENTS** First quarter is over. Please catch-up on your lunch payments or apply for the Federal lunch program(app is on the web page) if you are having difficulty. Thanks!

THE HARP TWINS will be coming to Columbia Feb. 16 & 17. On **Thursday, Feb. 16 at 9:30** ICS will enjoy the music of the angels! Harp Twins will be in concert is Immaculate Church on Friday evening, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. We are hopeful you will encourage your students to attend the evening

performance. Sponsorship by the Dorothy Weinel Eppinger Foundation.

Hello Chess Families! Welcome to all our new chess families and welcome back to those of you who have students who have played in the past. We had an excellent turnout for the beginners chess practice last week. All in, we will have around 40 new members of the chess team! **If all former students return to play chess, we will have 135 students playing chess at ICS this year!** This is such an amazing number, definitely an all-time high for our school. It is phenomenal to have so many children interested in learning to play this timeless game which helps develop critical thinking in many areas.

With that in mind, In order to give students the best learning experience with the smallest class size, we will break into three groups for practices: Grades 1&2, grades 3&4, and grades 5,6,7&8.

With each group being very large, (especially the youngest group) I am asking for some help. I would like to sign up 2-3 volunteers to come assist at each chess practice. Chess experience is very helpful, but not crucial. Sometimes just having extra sets of eyes and bodies helps keep order and encourages focus. As groups have gotten bigger through the years, this has become an issue, and it is very important to me that the time spent in chess practice is QUALITY time. Even high school students or grandparents who play chess are welcome to come assist.

Please email me if you would like to sign up to volunteer or you know someone who might enjoy helping our students learn and practice chess. I will set up a volunteer schedule and send it out based on responses. We will have practices on the dates below:

2016-2017 Practice Schedule:

Practices for Grades 1&2: Tues 11/8, Tues 12/6, Tues 1/10, Tues 1/31, Tues 2/21, Tues 3/14

Practices for Grades 3&4: Tues 11/15, WEDNESDAY 12/14 (Please note change due to Christmas Play), Tues 1/17, Tues 2/7, Tues 2/28, Tues 3/21

Practices for grades 5-8: Tues 11/29, Tues 12/20, Tues 1/24, Tues 2/14, Tues 3/7, Tues 3/28

Please contact me if you have any questions. I am so proud of this program and the success we have found. Most of all, I am thrilled that ICS students are so enthusiastic to play chess and are inspired to expand their growing minds.

Thanks so much, Cyra Herrmann, ICS Chess Coach

PAPA JOHN'S is running an additional promotion for your November event next week. The opportunity for every family that orders to earn a **FREE PIZZA!** All the details will be included on the flyer, but wanted you to be aware so you could do some **ADDITIONAL PROMOTING !!**

Below are the details: Order for Papa John's November School Night Event & Earn Free Pizza!

Order Online with promo code on flyer and 25 Papa Points will be deposited into your account the next day. 25 Papa Points will redeem a large 3 topping pizza! \$10 minimum purchase required to receive 25 Papa Points. Must be a Papa Reward Member. This Papa Reward Free Pizza is valid through 5-30-17.

THANKS TO Papa John's for \$44.37 from Papa John's Night!

AND STILL COLLECTING! Jeremy and Taylor Schultz are collecting your extra Halloween candy to donate to the USO (United Service Organization). They serve meals to and help over 15,000 military troops a month passing through Lambert Airport and they would greatly appreciate the donation. A lot of these men as women are returning from overseas deployments and have not gotten to taste candy

for months !! Please call or text at Jeremy [618-741-3522](tel:618-741-3522) or drop off at the office by next Thursday November 10th. Thanks Jeremy and Taylor!

Family Fun Night hosted by your ICS teachers. Bring your whole family to share some family time and maybe learn something new. Stations include: art, reading, science, cooking, games and more Learning should be FUNdamental at home too. **Tuesday November 15, 2016 6pm-7:30pm** Any questions? Please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

SCHOOL BLOCK CHALLENGE/QUILTING We meet in Mrs. Weiler's room after school from 3pm - 5pm on the following dates.

Tuesday, November 15 Thursday, November 17 Thursday, November 29
Contact Carol Fetcho at cfetcho@icsmail.org or text/call [314.565.7354](tel:314.565.7354).

LIVE-LIVE-DEMO Ameren will be coming here next Wednesday with 3 presentations on electrical safety. 9:45---10:30---11:15 It has been a while since we have done this but having suffered through a student who touched a downed power line and losing his arm, part of his foot, and a lifetime of regrets, we really need this. I also lost an Uncle who tripped over a downed power line

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Now is the time. This is the song I choose today for our liturgy's closing hymn.

Hello. You haven't heard from me yet this year. I am the ICS school counselor, and I like to send messages of hope and share information that is helpful. I have been negligent in sharing this year so far. Now is the time. The morning after the election the charge is to appeal to everyone somehow. What I say to you is this: embrace this opportunity to share with your children the absolute privilege to be a part of daily life—as Christians and as Americans. They can, every day Come to the River (God is ALIVE!). Sure, we have people in leadership positions, but I feel we have to be careful that we relax into a concept that certain things are “someone else's job.” I have told my children the same—don't let your reaction to this election change YOUR responsibility and YOUR job to be part of making this country, but more importantly, this world, a better place. Be Not Afraid!! You can let a political party or influence get in your way, or YOU can make a difference.

So we are going to sing today 3 hymns: Go Make a Difference (because we can, everyday), Be Not Afraid (because God is Good!) and of course, Now is the Time.

Karen Lundy, ICS School Counselor, The Teaching Never Stops

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Winter is just around the corner and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. **Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) – are being requested.** Coats can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at #13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2, East St. Louis (Loisel Village area, immediately off Route 157) or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hoglebe at [618-394-0126](tel:618-394-0126) for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm – check your closets and donate a coat today!

THE SPORTING NEWS...

BASKETBALL TEAM PICTURES WILL TAKE PLACE ON DEC. 7. Please make sure that all your players are present. Thanks!

5th Boys 4:45 (home game 5:30)
7th Girls 5:00 (no game)
5th Girls 5:15 (no game)
6th Boys 5:30 (home game 6:15?)
6th Girls 5:45 (no game)

8th Girls 6:00 (no game)
8th Boys 6:15 (no game)

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...

Stay out of the kitchen this Holiday Season by ordering from the Honey-Baked Fundraiser. 20% of all sales will go directly to the students traveling to Washington, DC for the March for Life. [Click here for the order form](#) for the Thanksgiving Sales – check out the new sides now available! Order forms for our Christmas fundraiser will be available in December. Thanks so much for your continued support!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Fall Festival & Hayride

Saturday, November 12th starting around 6:00 pm Lower Parking Lot

Everyone is invited to an evening of food, fun and fellowship. We will begin the night's festivities with the Living Rosary. Candles, torches, and a huge rosary rope will make this a special "experience" for all ages. After the rosary, chili and hot dogs as well as smores and hot apple cider will be served. Hayrides, bonfires and raffles, including the Nativity Set Raffle, complete the evening. We would appreciate if families with last names starting with A-M bring a "small" dessert and those with last names starting with N-Z bring a "small" side dish. **Please call if questions, Nick Matrisotto at (314) 609-6092, Ted Haney (314)504-5057 or Brian Repp (314) 479-3027.**

COMMUNITY NEWS...COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP Wednesday, November 23rd at 7 p.m. at Christ Community. Pastor Bob Goddard OF St. Paul's U.C.C. will be preaching. An offering will be collected for the Columbia Clergy Fund which allows for food and gas assistance and other needs in the community. All pastors are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate and invite their congregants for this service of Thanksgiving together in Christ!

In the Eucharist, we move beyond mere words and go to that place where we don't talk about the mystery anymore; we begin to chew on it. Fr. Richard Rohr

Hello Families, BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH: *The Family Fully Alive* reminds us the theme for November is:

**"Because the Lord is the God of our ancestors,
we want to strengthen the relationships between our family's generations."
For the Christian community, the family is far more than a "theme".
It is life, it is the daily fabric of life, it is the journey of generations
who pass on the faith together with love and with basic moral values.**

"Love Is Our Mission"

Nick Matrisotto-Brian Repp-Ted Haney Knights of Columbus Family Committee

The Bible is a most extraordinary text because it repeatedly legitimizes, not the people on the top, but invariably the people on the bottom. Fr. Richard Rohr

We have a former parent who had a major cardiac event and has been in recovery for a few months, but she wanted to be private about it, so nobody has been aware so far. She's happy to reach out for prayers now, but still wants to be anonymous.

Leigh-Anne Feldker is having leg surgery this week. Please keep her in your prayers.

PRAYERS: Special Intention, , Leigh-Anne Feldker, Thomas Lorenz, Mike Juengling, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Dan Borisuk, Dan Whelan, Patricia Steppig, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Barb Winschel, Josh Ritter, Stella Moll, Gertrude Scherrer, Henry Scott Dabbs, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Mary Giovanni, Denise Conner, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella

Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intentions

Our Building a Catholic Education and Activity Center Prayer:

Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church.

Guide us in building our new Catholic Education & Activity Center, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the **work of our hands**, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918---the armistice for the Great War took place. This was to be the “*war to end all wars*”. It was not World War I as we call it today. It was the Great War caused by entangling alliances and zealots and social and political issues. World War II, the war that should never have happened according to the Treaty of Versailles and disarmament, reminds us of the constant vigilance we have to keep and the thousands who had their lives taken in efforts for peace. Tomorrow we thank our veterans, both living and dead, who gave of their lives for us. Few wanted to die but did in the name of peace and duty. Many of our veterans have witnessed unimaginable horrors and suffer the consequences of PTSD today. 11% of the homeless in America are veterans. Nearly 50 million men and women have served in our country’s military over the years. God’s blessings on them and say a prayer for them. We are all called to be patriotic as we work to make America the best country we can!

EARN YOUR KEEP St. Paul reminds us this Sunday. Sometimes you do that by giving more time because you have less money or more prayer because you can find more time, or more money because you’ve been blessed more. Either way, you need to have some “skin in the game” of life. Commitment. It can be quiet and humble and very effective in doing your share in the best way you can. That’s all God asks of us. War, earthquake, disease, hunger will always be with us. Patient endurance will help us make it through. Seeing the big picture reminds us we have a singular purpose to help our community of believers and the world gets better one person at a time.

Sincerely
Mike Kish, Principal

PS Happy Birthday Emily Meyer! 11-7---What lucky numbers! And we’re lucky too!

PS Gibault Catholic High School Rummage Sale: Saturday, November 12th from 8:00-3:00 in the GCHS Auditorium. Thank you for your support!

A BENEDICTION AND MEAL PRAYER FOR THE BICENTENNIAL OF MONROE COUNTY

Heavenly Father and Good God,

Today we again thank you for 200 years of political History as Monroe County ---so named during President James Monroe's "Era of Good Feeling". 1816

Yet we know your people have been living here some 14,000 years from the Paleo-Indians to the French hunters and trappers, to the English land owners receiving grants for military service, to German and Irish immigrants fleeing their lands in hopes of a better life, to all of us who have come here seeking the best of what America has to offer.

Monroe County has an "Air of Good Feeling" about it.

We thank you for the gift of---

- Rolling hills and gentle meadows carved by the waters of the earth flowing to the Mississippi
- For the karst topography we call sinkholes
For earth made of clay and loess in the hills and gumbo and great soils from the north coming to the bottoms and left by oftentimes huge floods that have changed the face of Monroe County
- For limestone bluffs and caves and trees and native plants and animals that still sustain us
- For the beauty and bounty of the land, for veterans and first responders who have kept us safe, and the beauty of people working together to make Monroe County our home.
- We thank you Lord for 200 years in *our promise land.*

Bless the work of all who prepared the food for us tonight, Gods goodness in providing it, and the Bicentennial Committee who have helped us celebrate your gift of Monroe County.

God Bless Monroe County!

God's neat! Let's eat! Amen.

EXTRA INFORMATION:

We have Parishioners who are 70 1/2 years of age or older. If they have an IRA, they may be forced to take a Required Minimum Distribution. If handled appropriately, there may be able to take advantages of special rules. Please know this is not meant to be professional tax advice (which is recommended) but an article highlighting the process is attached.

Donate Your RMD Tax-Free to Charity in 2016

By Kimberly Lankford , Contributing Editor May 13, 2016 www.kiplinger.com |

A donation counts as your required minimum distribution, but doesn't increase your adjusted gross income.

I'm 72, and I'd like to donate money from my IRA to charity to support my favorite cause and also so I don't have to pay as much in taxes on my required minimum distribution. Can I make the donation now, and what steps do I need to take?

In the past, Congress generally waited until December every year to extend the law that allows people to make a tax-free donation of up to \$100,000 from their IRA, leaving some to scramble to make the contribution before the RMD deadline. But Congress made the law permanent last year, so if you're 70½ or older, you can transfer your 2016 RMD to charity at any time. The donation counts as your required minimum distribution but doesn't increase your adjusted gross income, which can be particularly helpful if you don't itemize and can't deduct charitable contributions. Also, keeping some or all of your RMD out of your adjusted gross income could help you avoid the [Medicare high-income surcharge](#) or help [make less of your Social Security benefits taxable](#).

The money needs to be transferred directly from the IRA to the charity in order to be tax-free. If you withdraw it from the IRA first and then give it to the charity, you can deduct the gift as a charitable contribution (if you itemize), but the withdrawal will be included in your adjusted gross income.

Because the law is now permanent, IRA administrators are starting to simplify the process. Fidelity, for example, plans to introduce a new form in the next few weeks that makes it easy to transfer the money and make your wishes clear to the charity. You may also have the option of signing up for check-writing privileges from your IRA so that you can write the check directly from your account to the charity. That way, the charity will see who the contribution is from, and you can include specific directions as to which fund within the charity you'd like to support. Otherwise, the IRA administrator will cut a check and send it directly to the charity, but the charity won't necessarily be given clear information about whose account it is from or what the money is meant to support, says Jane Wilton, general counsel for the New York Community Trust.

If your IRA administrator doesn't offer check writing and instead transfers the money directly to the charity, Wilton recommends calling the charity in advance and giving them a heads up that it will be getting a check from your IRA. In addition to knowing who the donation is from, the charity can get your contact information to send you an acknowledgement for your tax records, and you can give the charity special instructions about which fund or program you're supporting. (Keep in mind that you can make the tax-free transfer from the IRA to a charity but not to a donor-advised fund.)

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