

## Your Donation Still Matters!

Donating to charity is a rewarding experience—even more so when it's tax deductible. Typically, if you choose to itemize your deductions, donations to a qualified charity with 501(c)(3) status can help to reduce your tax bill. Prior to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (a new piece of tax legislation passed in late 2017) it was considerably easier to accrue itemized deductions that exceeded the standard deduction, thus providing taxpayers more motivation to make charitable donations. However, the new law may be cause for a significant number of taxpayers to start claiming the standard deduction instead. The TCJA nearly doubles the standard deduction, meaning that itemized deductions now need to clear a much higher threshold (\$12,000 for singles and \$24,000 for married couples) in order to be worth claiming.

Many have argued that the law will seriously discourage Americans from making charitable donations, which raises a critical question: *are tax breaks really the primary motivation for giving?* Larry Lieberman, chief operating officer of Charity Navigator, (a prominent charity assessment organization) would say "no". In a recent interview, Lieberman was quoted as saying: "First and foremost, generosity and compassion drives American giving."

Consider the average donation made to Family Promise Lower Bucks—about \$250. By writing off this donation, the average taxpayer stands to save about \$25-\$62, depending on their tax bracket (10%, 15%, or 20%), on their return. Such a minimal savings is undoubtedly not the driving force for giving. If you've ever made a comparable donation to charity, it is far more likely that your generosity and compassion for the cause compelled you to do it. So why would any of that change now?



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In light of the new tax law, simply consider donating \$225 instead of \$250. This small adjustment would **STILL** make an enormous difference to Family Promise of Lower Bucks. Your contributions provide safe shelter, nutritious meals and a comprehensive support system to homeless families with children. Through your generosity and compassion, **nearly 80 percent** of families mentored by Family Promise nationwide are enabled to regain housing and their independence.

With or without a marginal tax break, your donation not only matters—it's priceless. There are **STILL** families that are homeless and hungry. There are **STILL** children who will go to school every day and wonder where they will lay their heads at night. There are **STILL** parents who have no idea how they are going to feed their children from day to day. There are **STILL** families sleeping in cars and eating from trash cans. And, you can **STILL** help.

Your donation **STILL** matters and can **STILL** go a long way in helping Family Promise meet the needs of families and children. Large donations can help greatly, but gifts of any size make a difference. Consider giving a one-time donation or become a Family Promise Partner by signing up to give electronically on a monthly basis. Whichever scenario works best for you, your donation will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way in supporting families in crisis and helping them regain a sense of normalcy and stability. Giving is quick and easy. Visit our website at [www.fplb.org](http://www.fplb.org).

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for remaining consistent in your giving to charities that need it most.

Sincerely,

Family Promise® of Lower Bucks

Board of Trustees