

METHODS OF GIVING

Lamplighters provides many ways for you to contribute. Every contribution you make to Lamplighters is tax deductible, but two methods can provide additional tax benefits: the contribution of stock and a donation from your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Check with your accountant or financial advisor for specifics that apply to you.

Contribute by Check



Checks can be mailed. These contributions can be one-time or repetitive. You can send a check made payable to "Lamplighters International" to:

Lamplighters International
8011 34th Ave S. #412
Bloomington, MN 55425

If you wish to contribute to a specific fund or purpose, please note that in the memo line of your check.

Contribute through a Credit or Debit Card



If you wish to donate through a Credit or Debit card, you can use the Lamplighters website. Go to the "Donate" page and follow the pre-programmed dialogue on the website. You can utilize Credit/Debit Cards online and make automatic payments on a one-time or recurring basis. You provide your complete contact and card information (card number, expiration date, and security code). Lamplighters then automatically charges that on a one-time or recurring basis, based on your specification.

We encourage the use of online donations as much as possible. We do not support mail-in contributions by credit card or bank account information to ensure the security of your financial information.

Contributing through a Bank Bill Payment System



Many banks now support the ability to pay bills and obligations through an internal bill payment system. Payments can be single or repetitive payments and executed via a wire transfer or check. You can use this method if you do not want to divulge your bank account information.

To actualize this, you set up Lamplighters as a payee, specifying Lamplighters identification, address, bank routing number, and bank account number if the payment is to be a wire transfer, or simply Lamplighters identification and address if the payment is to be via a bank check.

Contributing from an IRA RMD

When you reach age 72, you are required to take annual distributions from your Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and that Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is taxable income.



You can make all or part of your RMD to Lamplighters via a disbursement and potentially gain a tax benefit. Contributions are always tax deductible on the following year's taxes as an itemized deduction, but you might get the benefit of not having the RMD disbursement charged to you as taxable income which might lower your tax bracket.

Here are some important rules:

- Contributions can only come from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) not from a Pension Fund or a Money Purchase Fund
- The contribution can be made at any time during the year
- The contribution must come directly from your IRA to Lamplighters, you cannot receive the funds personally then contribute them to Lamplighters or you will lose the tax avoidance on income
- You can contribute all or part of your RMD, but with an upper limit of \$100,000.00
- The distribution does not count as income to you, reducing your gross income
- You do not get a double benefit. You can choose to EITHER contribute directly and reduce your gross income OR take the contribution as an itemize deduction

To actualize an RMD distribution, you must complete a specific form with your IRA Trustee. Investment Banks support the ability to disburse RMD funds by check or by wire transfer.



Contributing Financial Assets or Securities

If you hold equities and seek to contribute them at the current value of those equities while avoiding capital gains, you can contribute them directly to Lamplighters. You benefit by making a current value contribution at your initial investment cost. Here are some important rules:

- You may donate appreciated stock, mutual funds, EFTs, and bonds held more than one year (assets held less than one year are valued at your cost)
- You may contribute assets valued at up to 30% of your Adjusted Gross Income in the current tax year; excess amounts are carried forward
- You receive a tax deduction equal to the *current market value* of the asset, assuming you are able to itemize your deductions
- If you hold the stock certificates, Lamplighters can accept them with your endorsement
- You will pay NO capital gains tax

The same rules apply to donated real estate. Banks, brokerage firms, and mutual fund institutions will require a letter of instruction or letter of authorization to transfer assets to Lamplighters. They wire the assets to Lamplighters' bank, the bank liquidates the asset immediately and deposits the proceeds to Lamplighters bank account. You must work closely with Lamplighters office to coordinate all parties, information, and timing. Please allow several weeks to complete the process (to anticipate completion before December 31).

Giving through a Donor-Advised Fund¹

If you donate through an individual Donor-Advised Fund, use the following charity details and tax ID in your search criteria within your fund platform when making your grant. You can further elect where you would like your contribution used or simply select "where needed."

Charity Details:

Lamplighters International
8011 34th Ave. S #412
Bloomington, MN 55425
(952) 294-0822
Charity Tax ID: 41-1965844

Note on Wire Transfers

To wire funds, you must have Lamplighters' wire transfer instructions. Lamplighters' bank routing number and bank account number can be obtained by calling Lamplighters office at: (952) 294-0822 or (800) 507-9516.

When a wire transfer is made, you may not be identified personally in the routing instructions. In order to properly attribute the transfer to you, please inform Lamplighters office of the pending transfer: the transferring bank, the amount, and the timing of the transfer. This ensures that Lamplighters knows the contribution came from you and can send you an acknowledgement.

¹ A donor-advised fund is a vehicle that allows investors to donate directly to a charitable fund, but retain control over the assets. Donor-advised fund administrators are public charities that qualify as section 501(c)(3) organizations. That means donors can benefit from an immediate tax deduction when they contribute cash or other assets to the fund. Although contributions are irrevocable (meaning you can't withdraw donations if you change your mind or need extra cash), the donor retains control over how to invest the assets and how much to contribute to various charities over time. Any remaining assets benefit from tax-free growth as long as the account remains funded.