

So, have you opened that workplace giving packet yet? Remember, the one [we talked about in our last blog post](#)?

No? Well, we get it. If your calendar is anything like ours, your workday is full with meetings and deadlines. An optional charitable giving program has some stiff competition for the top of your to-do list. But we also know that [more than half of you give to charity](#), so you're going to make a donation at some point. Why not make your gift in a way that saves you time so you can focus more on your job?

Workplace giving makes it faster and easier for you to give to your favorite charities. In today's post, we'll share some of the reasons workplace giving makes sense for your schedule, the company you work for, your favorite charity and your community.

A Brief Review

Every year, workplace giving contributes about \$5 billion to charities in the United States, so it's an important source of income for nonprofits in many fields, including Catholic Charities. You can donate to Catholic Charities through four primary workplace giving campaigns:

- **United Way** (designate Catholic Charities Spokane on your pledge form)
- **Washington Combined Fund Drive** (state employees can use charity code 0316163)
- **Combined Federal Campaign** (federal employees can use charity code 22732)
- **Your Workplace Campaign** (designate Catholic Charities with federal tax ID number 91-0569880)

Workplace giving is a way for you to help make a collective impact on your community. But it also has a lot of benefits for you, too.

Workplace Giving is Convenient

No matter how much you love your favorite charity, you don't love filling out paperwork to donate to them. Through your workplace giving program, you will only have to do paperwork once per year, and most of it can be done online! There's nothing you can do on paper you wouldn't rather do online.

Your workplace giving packet will include the forms you need to complete (if your company participates in United Way or a similar campaign) or direct you to give online (if you participate in the Washington Combined Fund Drive or Combined Federal Campaign). By completing the forms once, you'll authorize one payroll deduction per pay period. If you were to donate that often on your own, you could be filling donation forms 24 times each year!

The other upside to spreading your donations out is that you can give more with less strain on your bank account. For example, let's say at the end of last year you wrote a \$500 check to your favorite charity. First of all, that's an awesome contribution! And it works out to about 20 bucks per paycheck (assuming you're paid biweekly).

But it's still a big check that you'd rather not write, so what if you gave \$25 per paycheck? It's one less latte per paycheck, but by the end of the year it's a \$600 donation — \$100 more than you gave last year.

Plus, you never have to write a three-figure check!

Workplace Giving Puts You in Control

When you give through your workplace campaign, you get to direct the money to your favorite charity. Your workplace giving packet lists many charities you can choose from. It's the best chance you'll get all year to pick exactly how you want to help from such a large list.

You also stay in control of your gifts because you can stop them any time. If you encounter a financial challenge during the year, you can contact your payroll department and end the regular deductions.

Concerned about your data getting out there? Most workplace giving campaigns let you stay anonymous. When you make a direct gift, the charity needs to know who you are so they can run your bank information. But your company processes workplace gifts, so you can keep the credit card information to yourself and withhold your contact information but still give.

Workplace Giving is a Good Value

The old adage says you have to spend money to make money, and that's true with your education and your house. But with your favorite causes, you want as much of your donation as possible going to mission. Workplace giving maximizes the impact of your donation.

First, charities in your campaign are screened, so they are legitimate organizations with transparent and efficient practices. They'll put your money to good use.

Second, many companies will double or even triple the amount their employees give up to a certain amount, boosting the value of your donation even more. This is also a great way to help make your organization more socially conscious.

Finally, workplace giving increases nonprofit efficiency. When many individuals make donations to a nonprofit, each has to be processed on its own. But when you give through payroll deduction, your company processes the donations and cuts one check to the charity.

On the nonprofit's end, that means more staff time goes to mission — not to processing checks. Nonprofits also fundraise more efficiently through workplace giving because focusing on one campaign takes fewer resources.

Go Ahead, Open that Workplace Giving Packet!

Hopefully we've given you a few reasons to prioritize your workplace giving. It's hard to step away from your work even for just a few minutes, but if you do, it's a step that will pay dividends all year for you, your company, your community and the cause closest to your heart!