



HANSEN'S
ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.

"Investing in companies that give a hoot"

7067 East Genesee Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066
315-637-5153
www.hansensadvisory.com

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Gifted Investments ~ Giving Growth

Inherited IRAs ~ Understanding the Rules

You may think when you receive a bequest of an IRA from a parent or a partner it becomes your IRA. It does, in a way. Your name is on the IRA and the money is yours except, the deceased name is also on the IRA. This means you have to follow special rules about taking this money from the IRA. When you are not a spouse (in the eyes of the federal government), the IRA account must be transferred to the same or another investment company titled as above.

You have to take the money out each year, based on your life expectancy. If the age of the original owner of the IRA was 70 1/2 before death, you have to take the money out on the schedule of the deceased.

If you are a spouse, you are able to move the IRA to your own IRA. In most cases, you can't take the money out without penalty until you are 59 1/2.

What is the best way to gift for the future while allowing your gift to grow in value on a monetary basis and create growth of confidence for the receiver?

Parents could buy long term care insurance to protect their assets from being used for their health care. This would be a gift to themselves allowing them to have a comfortable retirement. The assets could be a gift to children or a favorite charity. This would also be a gift to children who would otherwise have to change their lives to be caregivers.

Have trees planted in a place chosen by the receiver

A gift of the cost for attendance to special seminars or lecture series would brighten the life of a loved one.

College savings accounts such as 529 plans could be started with a lump sum (\$1,000) and add monthly investments through automatic deductions from your checking account.

Roth IRAs are a way to invest for

retirement or for college expenses. The contributions you make to a Roth IRA can be withdrawn without penalty as long as you only take out what you have put in. If you take out any money that the Roth IRA earned through dividends or capital gains, you will have to pay a penalty and taxes on those earnings. Since you paid taxes on the money (from a salary you earned) before you invested, the contributions are not taxable.

Have a tree(s) planted in a place chosen by the receiver.

Buy a hybrid or electric car and give a gift to yourself and the Earth.

Is there a loved one that is very involved in volunteering for an organization they really believe is making the world a better place to live? Maybe, you could contribute to that organization with dollars or with a donation of your time along side the person who is very committed to the mission of the group.

Giving can be such fund!!

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Did You Know?



Looking for the right gift? Instead of a retail gift card, how about a [Good Card](#)? Like a gift card, you choose the amount, and your recipient can use it to make a donation to a charity of their choice—more than 1.5 million to choose from! Just go to www.networkforgood.org/good-card and send via email, mail, or print it at home—you get a tax deduction, *and* share the meaningful gift of giving!

“Slugging” is not a term related to gardening, but a shared transportation trend that has grown and succeeded in and around our nation’s capital urban work centers. People who want a free ride from work stand in line at appointed areas like park and ride lots, waiting for private individuals with cars to pull up, needing individuals to occupy their cars on the same journey, so they can all get home faster using their highway’s HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lane.



The best wind farms in the world are already competitive with coal, gas and nuclear plants. But by 2016, further performance improvements and cost reductions will bring the average onshore wind plant in line with cheap natural gas, even without a price on carbon, according to analysis from Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Go to <http://bnef.com/PressReleases/view/172> for more information.

I prefer butter to margarine, because I trust cows more than I trust chemists.

—Joan Gussow

Keep Good Food~ Throw Away Bad Habits

You probably don’t come home from a trip to your food market and throw 4 out of 10 items straight in the garbage, but apparently the U.S. is doing essentially that: an estimated 40% of food grown and produced here ends up being tossed out rather than consumed. For more information, and tips on how not to contribute to this shocking statistic (while saving \$ in the process), you may be interested in Jonathan Bloom’s book: [American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food](#) (just released in paperback). Here are some tips from his book on keeping groceries out of the garbage—and saving a few bucks at the supermarket while you’re at it.

- 1. Avoid impulse buys** They often add up to a bunch of wilted greens in your veggie drawer or moldy bagels in your pantry. Each week, plan out your family’s meals; then make a detailed shopping list and stick to it.
- 2. Stay organized** Keeping your kitchen in order may prevent items from hiding out in the back of the fridge or cupboard. Always check your inventory before heading to the store; no one needs two mostly full jars of capers or curry paste.
- 3. Remember: Less is more** Don’t serve restaurant-size portions to friends and family, forcing them to either overeat or scrape the remnants into the trash. Encourage diners to go for seconds if they’re still hungry.
- 4. Sneak in produce** If yours is heading south before you’ve had a chance to use it, take a page from parenting experts: Puree vegetables to put in sauces or soups, and blend overripe fruit into smoothies or yogurt.
- 5. Trust your senses** Expiration dates refer to a food’s taste and texture, not whether it’s safe to consume. If you’re not sure you’ve tasted sour milk ... you haven’t.



The intention of our 2012 goals will be to enhance our service to you. Our plans include requesting your thoughts about how we can do so. We will be sending or emailing you a short survey to help us focus on the most important aspects of financial planning

for you.

If you haven’t had a chance to visit our web page, www.hansensadvisory.com, please do so and tell us what you think.

As you look forward to the next year, do you have goals you would like to discuss at an appointment, by email or on the phone?

We would be pleased to facilitate a most prosperous new year for you!