Gifts to the Campaign

Oyster Pond Environmental Trust (OPET) welcomes and appreciates gifts of all sizes. The generosity of our friends is an investment in the future of Oyster Pond.

We are pleased to offer a wide variety of gift vehicles to support the Capital Campaign. OPET will be pleased to work with prospective donors in determining how they may wish to make a gift, but it is recommended that donors consult with their financial advisors before finalizing a contribution and to seek professional tax guidelines regarding the deductibility of gifts.

Pledges
Pledge payments may be spread over two years to allow donors to make larger commitments and fulfill them at a comfortable pace.

Gifts of Cash
Many donors choose to make gifts of cash, check, money order, bank draft, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or through PayPal on our website. OPET is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation may be tax deductible as allowed by law (OPET Tax ID: 04-3278142). Gifts can be mailed to:

OPET
P.O. Box 496
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Gifts of Securities
Donors who choose to give appreciated securities can receive a charitable tax deduction for the full market value of the securities and avoid capital gains tax if the donor has owned the asset for at least a year. To avoid capital gains taxes, donors must provide the securities themselves, not the proceeds of their sale. These gifts may be deducted at fair market value on the date of transfer to OPET, Inc. Corporate Account. In giving appreciated assets, please contact Dave Bailey at 508-540-4441. Donors must describe what is being delivered, stock name, stock symbol, and CUSIP number. The DTC participant # is 0385, Internal Account # 63340787.

Please be sure to contact Wendi Buesseler when transferring securities so that we know to look for their arrival. Contacting your broker alone may not ensure proper or timely gift crediting.

Retained Life Estate
Donors can give their personal residence to OPET, yet retain the right to live there for the rest of their life. Donors continue to live on the property while taking an immediate charitable income tax deduction equal to OPET’s right to receive the property at the end of the Donor’s lifetime. As long as the Donor lives in the home, he/she remains responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.
Memorial or Honorary Gift
If you have a family member or friend whose life has been touched by OPET, we hope you’ll consider making a gift to us in honor of that person. Providing a gift establishes a living tribute that allows you to honor a loved one or yourself, support our continuing efforts, and receive personal financial benefits from your contribution.

Matching Gifts
Many companies match the charitable gifts of their employees. You may obtain the proper matching-gift from the employer and submit it to OPET for processing. Contact your company’s personnel office for more information.

Bequests
Bequests often enable donors to give more than would have been possible during their lifetime. Bequests may be kept private, and they can be changed during the donor’s lifetime. Bequests are relatively easy to establish, often with just a simple addition to a will or revocable trust. Also, bequests are tax-wise — gifts through bequests qualify for certain estate tax deductions. Naming OPET in your will or trust requires simple language: “I give to OPET all (or state a percentage) of the residue of my estate, to be used in such a manner as its Board of Directors determines.”

Gifts of Real Estate
Make a gift of real estate outright.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets
OPET can be named as the beneficiary of a retirement plan or IRA. This provides income tax and possible estate tax benefits and prevents double taxation on a larger estate. Some individuals may wish to “roll over” portions of a large pension fund or IRA account to fulfill their philanthropic intent to OPET. Although retirement assets cannot be transferred directly from a pension plan or IRA to a charitable entity, in many cases the funds may be distributed to the plan participant and then contributed to OPET. That distribution, although taxable to the donor, may then be offset by the charitable donation.

Gifts of Life Insurance
Life insurance is an asset you may not think of donating to OPET until you hear how powerful, practical, and simple it can be.

You can name OPET as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy that provides income tax and possible estate tax benefits. If you own a life insurance policy with accumulated cash value and the original purpose for the protection no longer applies—such as to educate children now grown or to provide financial security for a spouse now deceased—your life insurance can be redirected to help support a worthwhile cause. One option is to simply name OPET as the primary beneficiary. (However, naming OPET as the beneficiary while you retain ownership of the policy does not qualify you for an income tax deduction.) You can name us as the beneficiary and also assign us ownership of the policy as a current charitable gift.

For questions about gifts or pledges, please contact Wendi Buessler, Executive Director, OPET (508)540-8162 or wbuessler@comcast.net