

3023 N. Clark Street, Suite 118 | Chicago, Illinois 60657-USA
TEL 888.657.4448 | FAX 888.657.4410 | www.visionshare.org



Gift Acceptance Policy

Effective Date:

Approved by the Vision Share Board of Directors

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Gift Acceptance Policy is to establish guidelines for the acceptance of charitable contributions to Vision Share in a manner that:

- Supports the Organization's mission to expand global access to sight-restoring corneal tissue
- Ensures responsible stewardship of donated funds
- Protects the Organization's legal and tax-exempt status
- Minimizes risk to Vision Share
- Promotes ethical and transparent fundraising practices

Vision Share welcomes contributions that advance its charitable objectives while maintaining integrity, independence, and operational sustainability.

2. Authority

The Board of Directors has ultimate authority over the acceptance of gifts.

The Executive Director (or designee) is authorized to accept gifts consistent with this policy. Gifts that fall outside these guidelines, or present unusual risk or restrictions, shall be referred to the Board or Executive Committee for review.

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3. General Principles

Vision Share will:

- Accept gifts that align with its mission and strategic objectives
- Decline gifts that compromise its independence, reputation, or tax-exempt status
- Avoid gifts that impose unreasonable administrative burden
- Maintain compliance with applicable federal and state laws

Vision Share reserves the right to refuse any gift that is not in the best interest of the Organization.

4. Types of Acceptable Gifts

Vision Share may accept the following types of contributions:

4.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents

- Currency
- Checks
- Electronic transfers
- Online donations

4.2 Securities

- Publicly traded stocks and bonds
- Mutual funds

Generally, publicly traded securities will be sold promptly unless otherwise directed by the Board.

4.3 Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) Grants

Vision Share accepts grants from Donor-Advised Funds consistent with IRS regulations.

4.4 Corporate and Foundation Grants

Vision Share may accept institutional grants aligned with its mission and reporting capacity.

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4.5 Planned Gifts

- Bequests
- Beneficiary designations
- Retirement account designations
- Life insurance beneficiary designations

Vision Share does not provide legal or tax advice and encourages donors to consult their advisors.

5. Restricted Gifts

Vision Share may accept restricted gifts provided that:

- The restriction aligns with the Organization's mission
- The restriction is feasible and administratively manageable
- The restriction does not create undue financial or operational burden

If a restriction becomes impractical or impossible to fulfill, Vision Share may seek donor consent to modify the restriction or, if necessary, pursue appropriate legal remedies consistent with charitable trust law.

6. Non-Cash Gifts

Vision Share may accept non-cash gifts on a case-by-case basis.

Examples include:

- Tangible personal property
- Real estate
- Intellectual property

Acceptance of such gifts may require:

- Independent appraisal
- Environmental review (for real estate)
- Legal review
- Board approval

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Vision Share reserves the right to decline non-cash gifts that:

- Create liability exposure
- Are difficult to liquidate
- Do not further the Organization's mission

7. Prohibited or Discouraged Gifts

Vision Share will not accept:

- Gifts that would jeopardize its 501(c)(3) status
- Gifts involving unlawful activity
- Gifts that require Vision Share to engage in activities outside its mission
- Gifts that create inappropriate influence over placement decisions, reimbursement structures, partnerships, or operational priorities

Maintaining independence and ethical stewardship is paramount.

8. Valuation and Tax Reporting

Vision Share will:

- Provide written acknowledgment of all charitable contributions as required by IRS regulations
- Not assign a value to non-cash gifts in donor acknowledgment letters
- Comply with IRS Form 8282 filing requirements when applicable

Donors are responsible for obtaining independent appraisals when required for tax purposes.

9. Gift Agreements

For major gifts, restricted gifts, or complex arrangements, Vision Share may require a written gift agreement outlining:

- Purpose of the gift
- Payment schedule
- Reporting expectations

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- Recognition terms
- Contingency provisions

Such agreements must be reviewed and approved by authorized leadership.

10. Confidentiality

Vision Share respects donor privacy and will not publicly disclose donor information without consent, except as required by law (e.g., IRS Form 990 reporting).

11. Donor Recognition

Vision Share may recognize donors publicly unless anonymity is requested. Recognition does not imply endorsement of a donor's business, views, or affiliations.

12. Periodic Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors to ensure continued compliance with legal requirements and best practices in nonprofit governance.

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Certification

Approved by the Vision Share Board of Directors on: _____

Board Chair Signature: Diane Hollingsworth

Executive Director Signature: Phil Fasano