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Greater Kansas City Community Foundation  
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**Public Comments in Response to the House Ways and Means Committee Tax Reform Working Group Request for Comments**

**Cap On Charitable Deductions**

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation has been helping individuals, families and companies give to charity for 35 years. Established in 1978, our founders believed that charitable giving should be the responsibility of many, not just a select few, and this is still true today as we continue to work with philanthropists in all tax brackets. With an asset base of \$1.7 billion in more than 3,300 funds, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation has ranked among the top 10 community foundations in the country since 1999, based on annual contributions, annual grants and asset size.

Donors at the Community Foundation give year-round, but the bulk of the activity is consistently in the 4th quarter, especially December, when donors are facing tax-related deadlines. In 2012, the Community Foundation received more than \$300 million in new donations<sup>1</sup>. Approximately half (49 percent) of new donations came in the 4th quarter, and 39 percent came in December. Looking back five years prior (2007 through 2011), the average percentage of gifts received in the last quarter remains essentially the same at 48 percent. More relevant statistics related to year-end giving:

**Per Year based on Average 2007-2011**

	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total for the Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average Size</b>
Gifts received in December	\$59.5 million	30%	5,790	\$9,243
Gifts received in 4th quarter	\$92.2 million	48%	13,589	\$7,015
Stock gifts received in December	\$16.2 million	28%	103	\$157,282
Stock gifts received in 4th quarter	\$32.4 million	56%	152	\$213,158
New funds (accounts) opened in December		38%	66	

<sup>1</sup> excludes a significant and unique bequest

	<b>2012<sup>1</sup></b>			
	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>% of Total for the Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average Size</b>
Gifts received in December	\$118.3 million	39%	3,800	\$29,094
Gifts received in 4th quarter	\$150.4 million	49%	8,079	\$14,799
Stock gifts received in December	\$27.1 million	28%	156	\$173,718
Stock gifts received in 4th quarter	\$39.9 million	41%	248	\$160,887
New funds (accounts) opened in December		61%	102	

It's apparent that a change to the itemized deduction for charitable contributions would dramatically affect the level of charitable giving, not just at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, but also throughout the national nonprofit community. The Community Foundation's mission is to increase charitable giving, and favorable tax laws are fundamentally important to that mission.