Donations, Grants, Gifts What's the difference?

Definitions

What is a DONATION?

- Contributions of money or property you make to a 501c3.
 - **Examples**: Churches, Wounded Warrior Project, St Jude Children's Hospital etc.

Definitions

What is a GRANT?

- Scholarships, fellowships, internships, prizes, and awards, given to another organization that is meant to further our organizations' exempt purposes. The grant specifies how the money must be used and that it cannot be used for any other purpose.
 - Examples: Scholarship to a local Irish Dance School or to sponsor someone on an FFAI trip or Church retreat.

Definitions

What is a GIFT?

- Money given to a business or an individual/ family that is in accordance with our exempt purpose.
 - Examples: a local family in your area has a family member who passed away unexpectedly and the family cannot afford to pay the funeral costs, if you give them money you are giving them a gift not a donation.

What is the difference?

- ▶ **Donations:** Must be made to a 501c3.
- **Grants:** Do not have to be given to 501c3, they can be given to any exempt organization or to a non-exempt organization or person. Funds are designated for a specific purpose that furthers our exempt purpose (teaches our exempt purpose or adds to the success of our exempt purpose).

What is the difference?

• <u>Gifts:</u> Monies given to any person/group where the purpose of the gift is in accordance with our exempt purpose (helping the local community, religious community, promoting lrish culture etc.). There is no requirement to further our exempt purpose or requirement on how funds can be spent.

What is our exempt purpose?

To promote the charitable causes adopted by the membership, which include religious, civic and humanitarian projects.

How do I know if an event/company is in accordance with our exempt purpose?

If the event/company aids in humanitarian works, aids the local or religious community, promotes Irish history/culture or Catholic culture, or promotes catholic religious views it is in accordance with our exempt purpose.

What is the difference between furthering and being in accordance with our exempt purpose?

- Furthering our exempt purpose: that by supporting this event/person/company we are adding to the resources of our causes.
 - **Example**: A scholarship that furthers the knowledge of Irish history. Funds can only be used to pay for the specific class or for books for the class.

What is the difference between furthering and being in accordance with our exempt purpose?

- In accordance with our exempt purpose: the support will be given in response to a civic, humanitarian or religious cause.
 - Example: A member of your local church has a serious medical condition and cannot afford to pay for treatment. A gift is given to the member so they can afford to pay their bills, the money can be used to pay ANY bills they have, not just medical bills.

How do I know if a company is a 501c3?

- Go to IRS.gov.
 - Click on "Tools" and then on "Exempt Organizations
 Select Check"
 - You can also type "EO Select Check" in the search box on the upper right hand corner of the irs.gov homepage.
- Direct Link: <u>www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check</u>