Methods of Supporting US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Inc. on a Tax-Advantaged Basis

We are pleased to work with our supporters and their advisors to structure gifts in ways that maximize tax advantages for contributors consistent with applicable laws.
We welcome many forms of giving.

The US Friends of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (USF) is a non-profit corporation that has been recognized by the IRS as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its charitable purposes include the provision of financial and technical support to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT).

Because the DSWT is a Kenyan charity, U.S. tax laws do not permit U.S. taxpayers to take income tax deductions for contributions to the DSWT. However, your contributions to USF qualify for deduction for Federal income, gift and estate tax purposes to the extent permitted by law. In addition, because the tax laws of many states follow Federal tax law, contributions to USF may also qualify for deduction for State income tax purposes.

The following summary is general in nature and is intended to provide insight into tax-favored methods for supporting USF. The laws governing the tax treatment of charitable contributions are complex. As a result, before making a contribution or bequest, supporters are encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of a contribution.

Current Gifts

1. **Cash**. Perhaps the most common way to contribute to USF is to simply make a contribution by check, money order or credit card. We also accept contributions by direct deposit, payroll deduction and wire transfer.

2. **Matching Gifts.** If your employer offers a matching contribution program, you can significantly increase the effect of your gift. We encourage you to check with your human resources department to determine whether your employer offers this benefit.

3. **Appreciated Securities.** Contributing certain appreciated stock and/or bonds to USF offers a unique tax advantage. You may be able to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation and deduct the full fair market value of stock or bonds you contribute to USF.

4. **Charitable Lead Trusts.** Under this strategy, you contribute assets to a "charitable lead trust." The earnings from the assets are paid to the charity. Although you continue to be taxed on trust income, under the "grantor trust" rules, you may be entitled to an income tax deduction at the time of the gift in an amount equal to the present value of USF's annuity or unitrust interest in the trust assets. On your death, the trust assets are paid to your heirs.

Deferred Gifts

1 **Bequests.** Many individuals make future contributions through their wills or “living trusts.” This is a way to create a legacy and help USF in a significant way by leaving part of your estate to a cause that is near to your heart. Bequests to USF are deductible for Federal estate tax purposes to the extent permitted by law.

2 **Life Insurance.** Contributing a life insurance policy can be an easy way to make a substantial gift to USF. In its simplest form, you purchase a life insurance policy and transfer the policy, to USF. Your premium payments are deductible as charitable contributions to the extent permitted by law. If you own a paid up policy, you may be able to deduct the cash value of the policy.

3 **Charitable Gift Annuity.** Under this strategy, you make a gift (e.g. an appreciated asset) to USF. In return, we enter into a contract with an insurance company which obligates the company to pay you (or you and your spouse if you are married and so provide) a fixed annuity for your lifetime(s). In addition to receiving the life income, you may avoid capital gains tax on the transfer and can deduct the “spread” between the value of the asset contributed and the amount paid for the annuity by USF to the extent permitted by law. Upon the death of you (and your spouse), the remaining asset is distributed to USF.

4 **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust.** This strategy works the opposite of the “charitable lead trust.” Under this structure, you contribute assets to a trust established for the ultimate benefit of USF. The trust pays a fixed annuity to you for a maximum of 20 years or your lifetime. On your death, the trust assets are distributed to USF. This structure may enable you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation in the transferred asset, and entitles you to deduct the value of the gift to the extent permitted by law.

5 **Charitable Remainder Unitrust.** This is similar to the “charitable remainder annuity trust” with one major exception. The trust’s investments are subject to market fluctuations; therefore, your scheduled payments can increase or decrease with the investment performance of the trust assets.