



# DIRECTIONS



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Not FDIC Insured  
No Bank Guarantee  
May Lose Value

### TAX SAVINGS - TIME IS RUNNING OUT !

December 31st is the deadline to benefit from the Illinois State income tax deduction for contributions to the Plan. Make sure to act well before the end of the year to take advantage of this generous Illinois benefit.

You can contribute and deduct up to \$20,000 (joint filers) and \$10,000 (single filers). Remember, other family members and friends can contribute to the account and also benefit from the state income tax deduction.

### COLLEGE COST CALCULATOR

Check out the NEW college cost calculator on the Bright Directions site. It's easy to use and will help you determine how far along the college savings curve you are. You can look at the costs of specific schools, project different savings and earnings levels, and adjust the college cost inflation rate.

This tool along with the assistance and guidance from your investment professional can help fine tune your college savings strategy.

### 25,000 AND COUNTING

Over 25,000 accounts have been established with Bright Directions to help pay for loved one's college costs. With college costs continuing to escalate, make sure you are saving an adequate amount. You can increase your savings level at anytime and it's easy to do after accessing your account online. If you need assistance in modifying your automatic deduction amount online, please give us a call and we'll be happy to assist.

### GIFTS FOR 2007

If Bright Directions is part of your 2007 gifting program please make sure to coordinate with your tax professional in advance of year end. It's important to get the gift invested before December 31st. The IRS gifting limit for 2007 is \$12,000. Ask your investment or tax

professional about the special \$60,000 five-year forwarding election when you meet.

### PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

When parents, grandparents, or others ask what your 529 beneficiary needs for Christmas, give them the gift idea that will lead to their long-term success – a contribution to the Bright Directions plan. They can potentially qualify for the Illinois State income tax deduction and help with those mounting future college costs.

Call us and we can send deposit coupons for this purpose along with a nice gift card. A great way to check one more thing off the holiday shopping list!

### MATCH EXPENSES & WITHDRAWALS

If you have incurred qualified higher education expenses in 2007 and plan to take a withdrawal from your Bright Directions account to cover those expenses, we recommend that you do so before the end of the year. For tax purposes, qualified expenses and 529 withdrawals should take place in the same calendar year. Keep in mind, funds in 529 plans should not be used to repay student loans.

### UPCOMING PLAN ENHANCEMENTS

We will be sharing exciting news in the near future regarding a number of positive changes for the plan. Watch for an additional detailed mailing in the next 30 days regarding these exciting enhancements.

*Thank you  
for investing with  
Bright Directions!*