Although you should always consult your tax advisor, many non-profits have a few additional suggestions for donating.

Give appreciated assets - this helps you avoid capital gains taxes, will give you a potentially more significant deduction if you itemize, and can reduce concentrated positions in a single company.

Bunch giving - give double your normal amount **every other** year to maximize deductions.

Qualified Charitable Distribution/Required Minimum Distribution - if you are required to take an IRA distribution, don't need the cash, or don't want the increased taxes, have the distribution sent directly to a qualified charity.

High-Income Years - if you are going to have high-income years (for any number of possible reasons), accelerate your deductions, avoid capital gains, and spread out gifts through a Donor Advised Fund.