

## The Conscious Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley

### Autumn 2025 Insights

### Planting Trees

*“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”*

*-Warren Buffet*

With the final months of 2025 upon us, and the holidays on the horizon, many of us look forward to time with family and friends. These gatherings often include conversations about where we’ve been, what we’ve been up to, and what we’re looking forward to ahead. This offers a wonderful opportunity to both reflect on the shade we’re enjoying today, thanks to the planning and decisions we made years ago, and to consider what other trees we are planting today. Here, we offer a handful of ideas across two dimensions: family and community.

We often see families benefit from revisiting the following concepts together:

- **Legacy Documents:** Do wills and trusts still reflect current wishes?
- **Gifting:** Annual gifts may reduce future estate taxes while helping loved ones today.
- **Elder Care:** Are long-term care costs and coverage part of the plan?
- **Change in Capacity:** Togetherness may allow us to notice signs of memory decline and provide a chance to discuss what support is in place or what wishes can be carried out.
- **Sharing the “Why”:** Passing on values can be just as important as passing on assets.

Legacy doesn’t stop at family. For many, it extends outward to the causes and communities that matter most. Year-end can be a natural time to evaluate:

- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** Direct gifts from IRAs that also count toward RMDs.
- **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs):** Contribute now, decide later where to give, and still capture this year’s deduction.
- **Gifting Appreciated Assets:** Supporting organizations you care about while reducing capital gains exposure.

We hope you enjoy the remaining months of 2025, and enjoy a beautiful holiday season with those you love. If you find yourself having any of these conversations or others related to financial well-being, intentions and longevity, or would like to discuss ideas with us, our team is standing by to co-design and carry forward thoughtful strategies for the years ahead.

As always, we are just a call, text, or email away.

## **The Conscious Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Financial Advisors**

Noel, Claire, Michael, Lindsay and Darren

Noel Brown, CIMA®, CPWA®, Financial Advisor, Senior Vice President, Investing with Impact Director, Family Wealth Director

Claire Miyasato, CFP®, Financial Advisor, Senior Vice President, Insurance Planning Director

Michael Laconsay, CRPC®, Financial Advisor, Vice President

Lindsay Mist, CFP®, Financial Advisor, Vice President, Investing with Impact Director

Darren Agena, CFP®, Financial Advisor, Vice President, Financial Planning Specialist

555 California Street, 35th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94104

733 Bishop Street, Suite 2800 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

33 Lono Avenue, Suite 330 | Kahului, HI 96732

Phone: 808-525-6046

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