

# Accepting Real Estate: Real Life Scenarios

Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Symposium

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# Session Objectives

- ☐ Recognize real estate gift opportunities
- ☐ Understand the risks to your institution and how they can be minimized
- ☐ Learn to manage donor expectations

Greater confidence in securing real estate gifts

# Types of Property



**Residential**  
Owner-occupied or rental



**Vacation property**



**Undeveloped land**



**Industrial**



**Commercial**  
Office or retail



**Agricultural**



# Gifts of Real Estate



## Challenges

Complex; involve some risk; require time, expertise, and effort



## Rewards

More gifts; larger gift sizes; “success breeds success”

# Median Gift Asset Values: Trusts

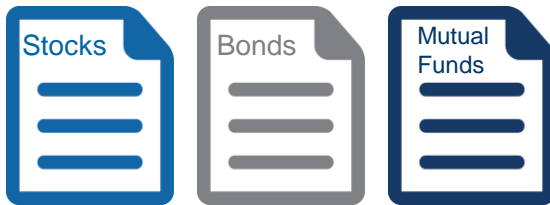
## All Kaspick & Company Clients (2005–2015)



Cash: \$100,000



Real estate: \$400,000



Securities: \$147,005



Other: \$319,630

Note: Median gift size for all new trusts created 2005–2015

# Why Donors Fund Life Income Gifts with Real Estate

## **Motivations**

- No longer want to manage property
- Personal reasons necessitate move
- Right buyer has come along
- Campaign gift
- Do not foresee further appreciation

## **Planning Objectives**

- Avoid capital gains tax
- Increase income
- An outright gift is too much



# The Real Estate Gift Process

1

## Discovery & qualification

1. Understand donor motivations
2. Analyze the property

2

## Gift structuring

3. Develop the gift plan
4. Accept the gift

3

## Gift execution

5. Fund the gift
6. Manage and sell the property
7. Administer and invest the gift



# What Are the Challenges?



Lack of expertise

Screening out bad proposals

Managing many issues simultaneously

Overcoming institutional reservations due to previous bad experience(s)

Overcoming organizational inertia and generating energy for an uncommon gift



# Who Can Help You?

Real estate  
specialist on staff

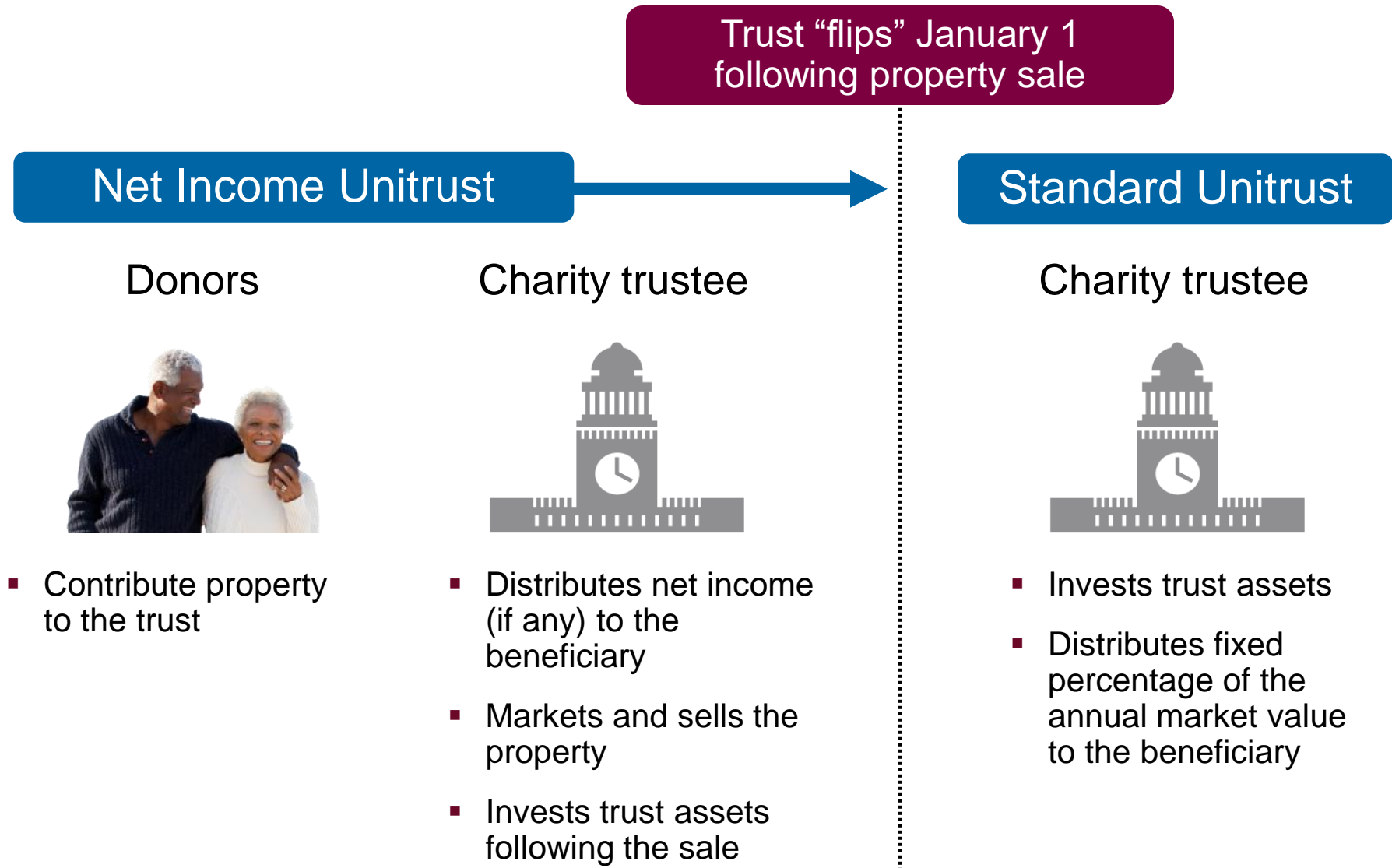
Your legal counsel

Trustees,  
volunteers,  
friends

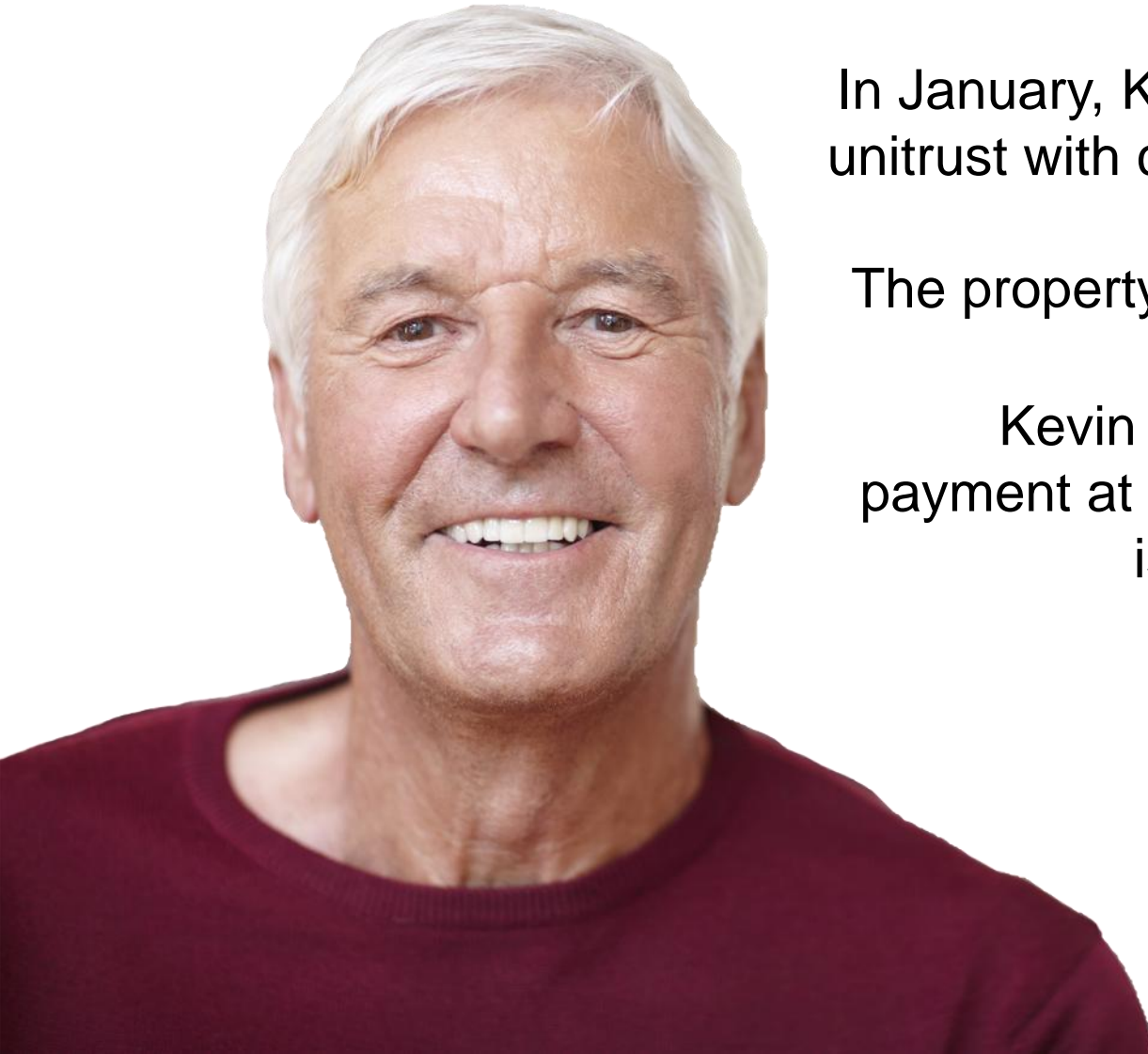
Network of  
brokers,  
appraisers



# Preferred Vehicle: Flip Unitrust



# Scenario: Flip Trusts Funded With Real Estate

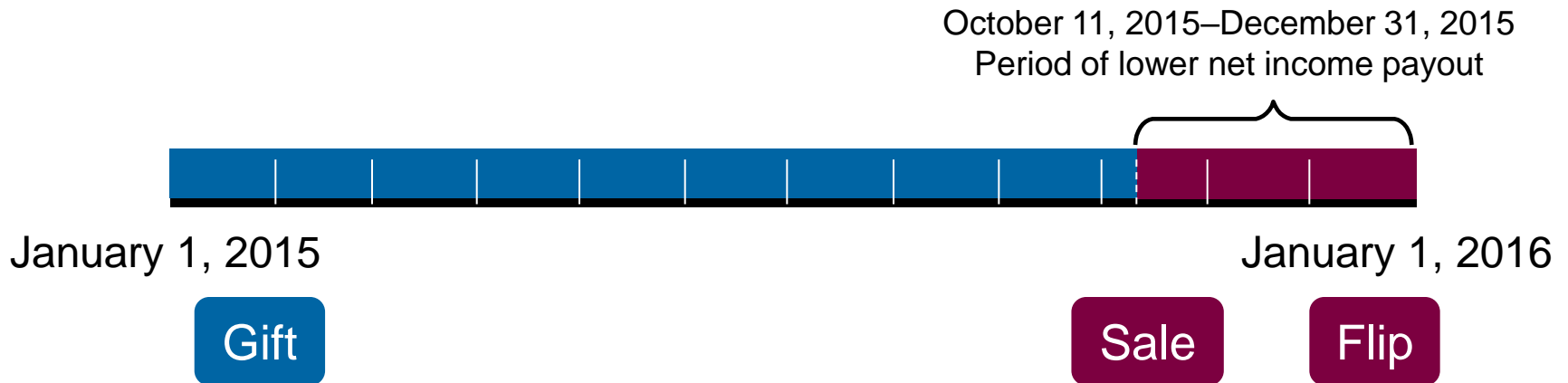
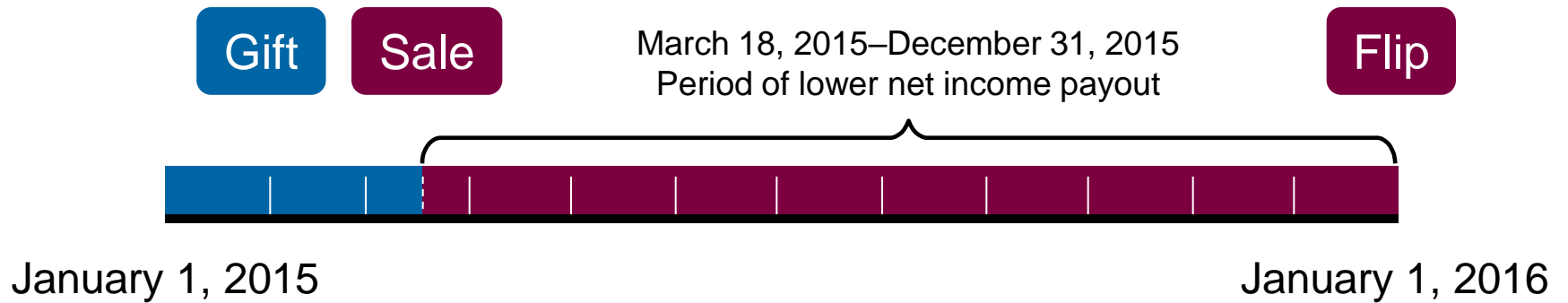


In January, Kevin funds a 6% flip unitrust with commercial property yielding 8%.  
The property sells in late March.

Kevin receives his second payment at the end of June and is very disappointed.

**What happened?**

# Timing Issue





# Good Practices



Educate the donor about:

- The mechanics of the trust
- Income levels during the pre-flip period



Manage the donor's expectations



Consider which trust provisions to include:

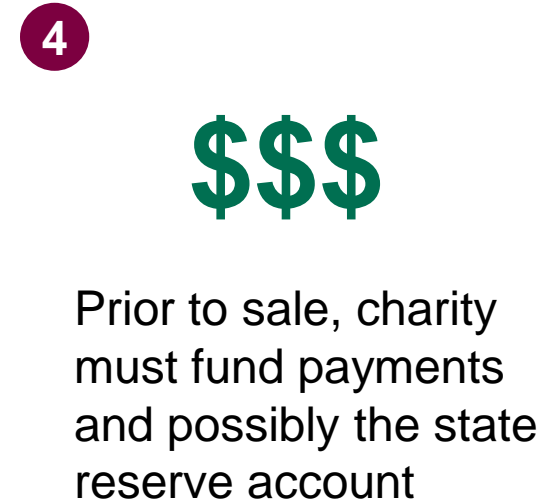
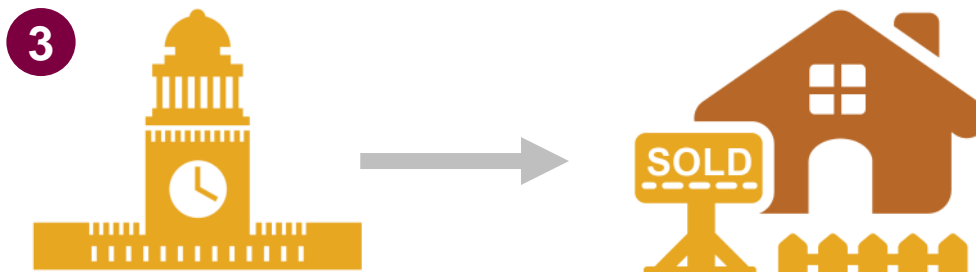
- Define income to include post-gift capital gains
- Include a make-up provision
- Give the trustee discretion to allocate expenses to income or principal
- Include short-term gains distributions as income

# Interest Rates Drive Income Distributions



Source: Federal Reserve.

# Alternate Vehicle: Gift Annuity

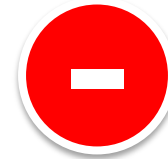


# Using a Gift Annuity Instead of a Flip Unitrust



Simpler for the donor

Sometimes an annuity payment is more appropriate for the donor



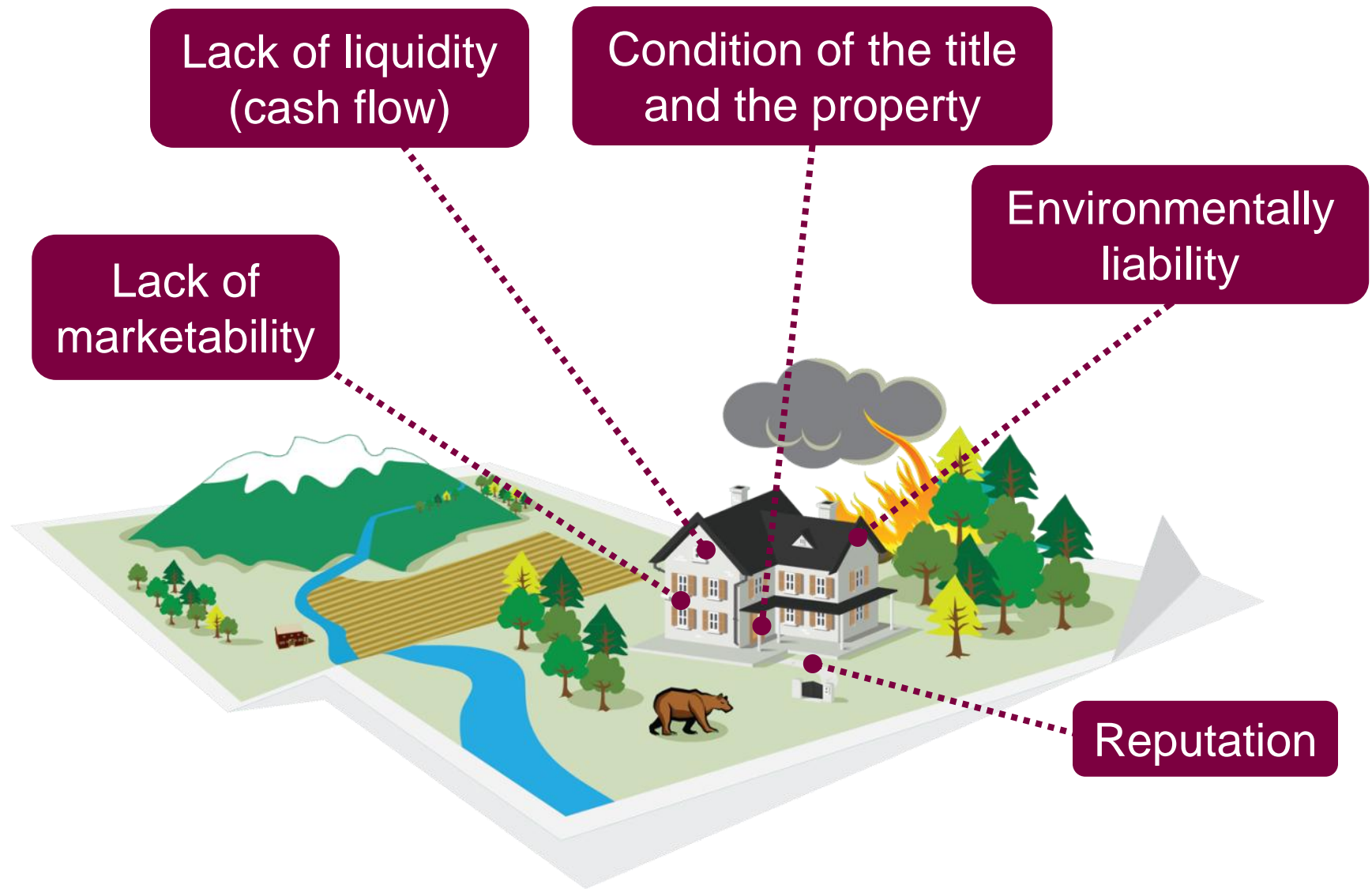
Higher risk for the charity

More difficult gift acceptance process

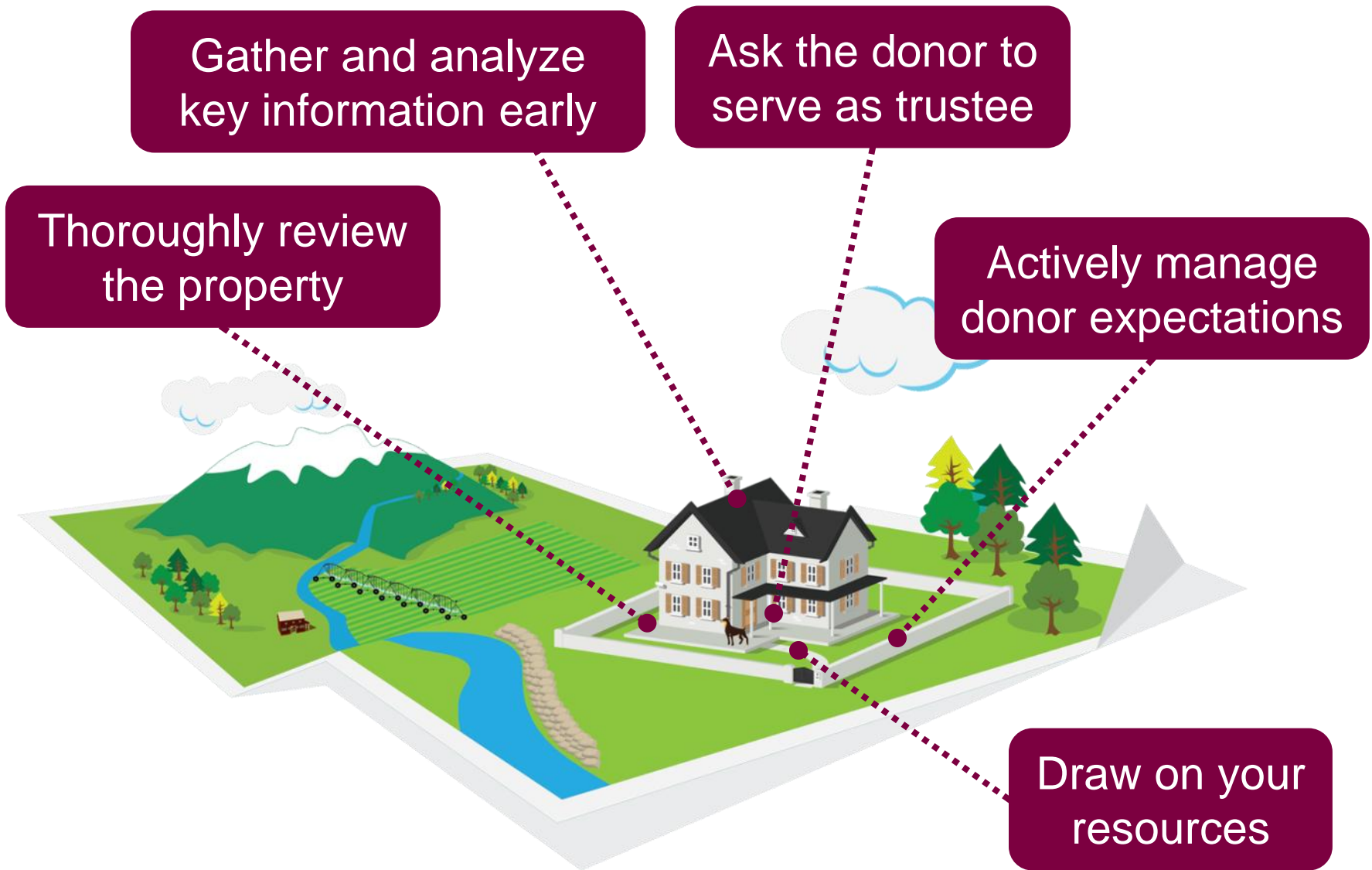
Accuracy of property evaluation and assessment of marketability is more critical



# Risks for Your Institution



# How Can You Reduce the Risks?



# Screening Out Bad Gifts

## Issues to Cover in the First Contact

- ✓ Type and use of property
- ✓ How the property is titled
- ✓ Estimate of property value and marketability
- ✓ Whether there is any debt
- ✓ Ask for copies of
  - Deed granting property to donor
  - Most recent tax bill with assessed valuation



# Addressing Marketability Concerns Before the Gift

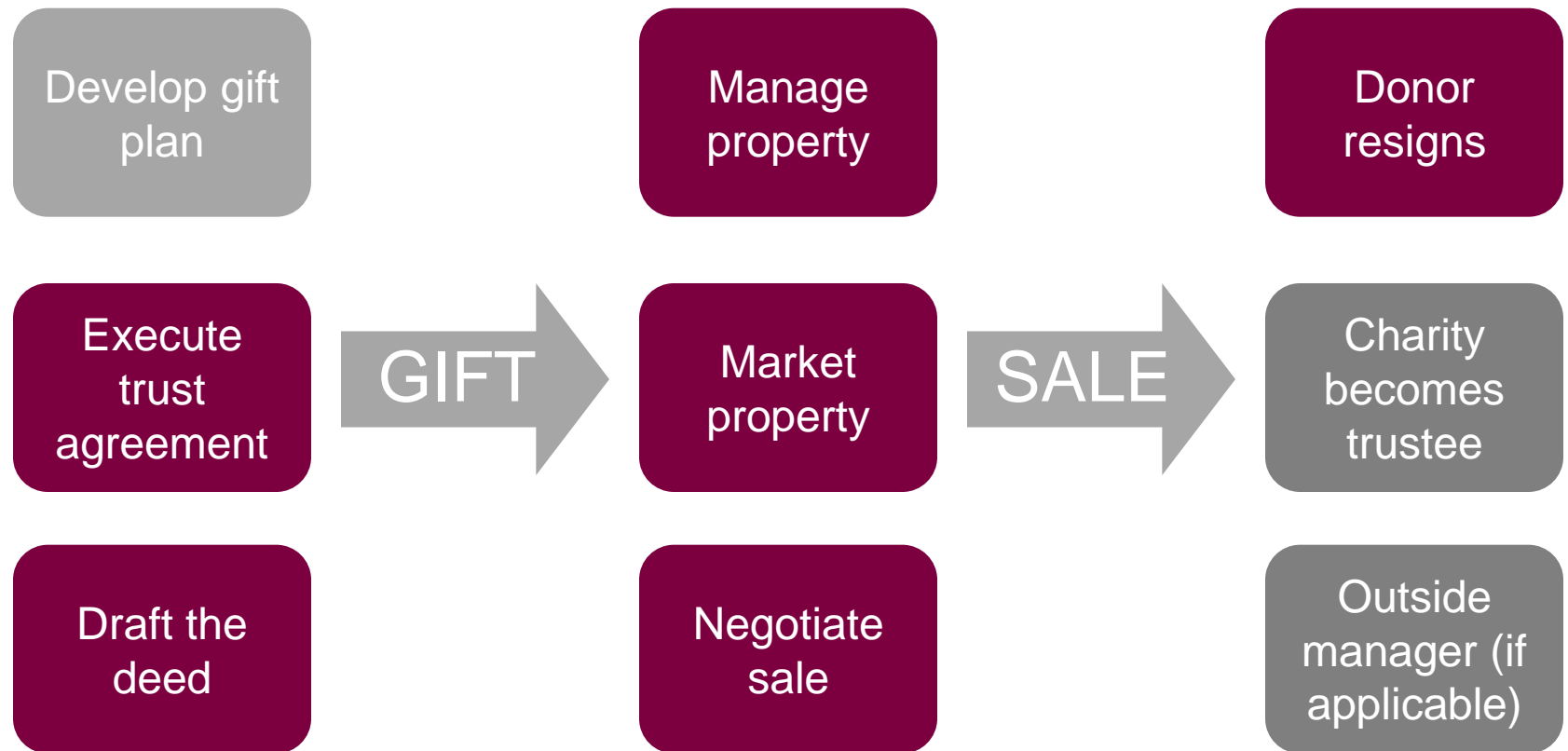
- Defer the gift until the market improves
- Be alert to unusual property characteristics
- Perform your own market analysis
- Use more conservative assumptions when evaluating real estate gifts made in return for annuity payments
- Make sure the donor has reasonable expectations



# Addressing Marketability Concerns Before the Gift

- Discuss the range of outcomes each party is willing to accept
- Pre-negotiate the sale (charity only)
- Consider using a “charitable put”
- Ask the donor to serve as initial trustee

# Donor as Initial Trustee: How It Works



Colored boxes represent activities for which the donor is solely responsible

# Addressing Marketability Concerns After the Gift

- Be patient
- Rent the property
- Address property deficiencies
- Lower the price
- Consider seller financing to assist in a sale
- Auction the property

# Addressing Cash Flow Concerns Before the Gift

- Complete a detailed cash flow analysis, including worst-case scenarios
- Secure a donation of liquid assets up front
- Set donor expectations about ongoing contributions; execute a letter of understanding
- Explore the possibility of renting the property; discuss with the donor



# Addressing Cash Flow Problems After the Gift

- Help the donor consider alternative ways to fund an addition
- Rent the property
- Create a working capital reserve
- Charity buys part of the property
- What about the trust borrowing money?

# Discussion Questions

1. What are the primary issues you identify?
2. What additional questions would you most like to ask?
3. What gift options might you explore?
4. What fundraising strategy issues or questions do you see?
5. What institutional risk issues might arise?



These cases are derived from actual situations, but they are presented for illustrative purposes only. Based on individual facts and circumstances, your results may differ. The cases do not represent tax or legal advice.



# You Reap What You Sow

Hi, my name's Marty. I'm a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion donor from Alabama.

I'm interested in creating a life income gift of real estate.



# You Reap What You Sow

My attorney has prepared a trust instrument naming your institution as trustee, and he is ready to deed the land to the trust.



80 acres of Illinois farmland  
appraised at \$892,000



# Additional Facts



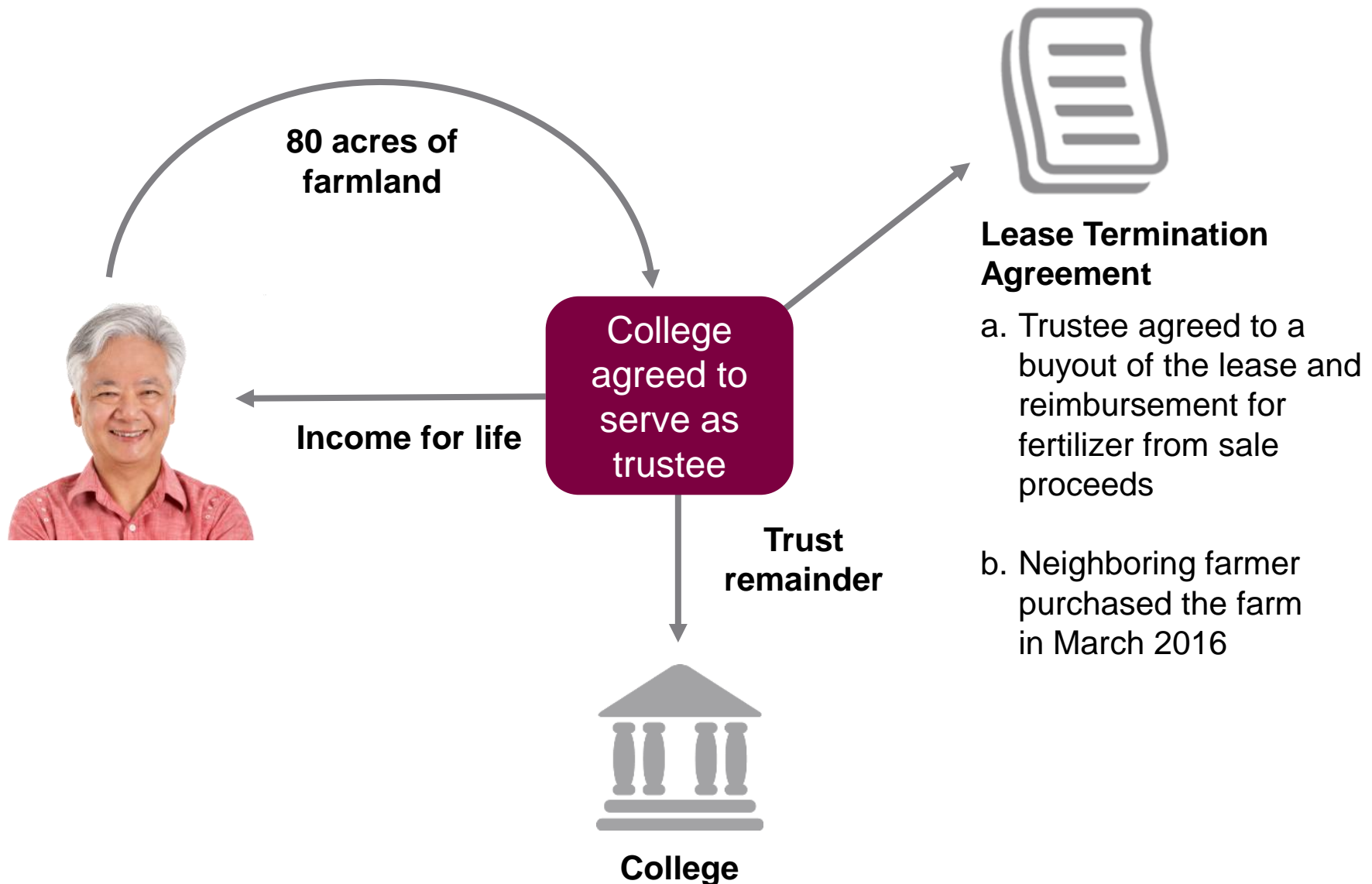
Land inherited over time from grandfather, mother, and aunt

Prospective buyer offering premium price if tenant-free

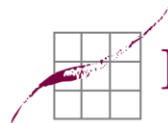
Oral rental agreement with two brothers  
(\$24,000 income last year)

The brothers are preparing the land for next year

# Marty's Flip Unitrust: Funded in October 2015







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