



# Anneken, Huey & Moser<sup>PLLC</sup>

Certified Public Accountants

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Here's the Tax Beat broadcast for November 26

Subject Line: A Charlie Brown Tax-Giving

For most families, Thanksgiving means gathering around a perfectly roasted turkey, sharing gratitude, and trying to avoid discussing politics or crypto. But in *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*, things are a little more “improvised.” Instead of turkey and stuffing, the Peanuts gang ends up with toast, popcorn, pretzel sticks, and a side of existential confusion. And honestly? That makes it a pretty realistic holiday picture. Because whether you're cooking a turkey or prepping a tax plan, life serves up whatever's in the pantry. Charlie Brown's holiday feast is basically a metaphor for the final weeks of tax-planning season. It's messy, it's chaotic, and half the participants assume someone else is doing the hard work. If that isn't December tax planning, I don't know what is.

Let's start with the root of the problem: Peppermint Patty inviting herself, and everyone she knows, to Charlie Brown's house. She steamrolls him, volunteers him to host Thanksgiving, and then gets mad when the meal isn't Instagram-ready. This is every taxpayer who calls us in late November announcing they just sold a rental, cashed out crypto, converted an IRA, and pulled a Snoopy by winning a costume contest with a cash prize . . . and now they'd like to “do something” about their tax bill. Preferably something involving magic.

Then there's Charlie himself, the patron saint of accidental responsibilities. He doesn't know what he's doing, he doesn't have what he needs, and he's too intimidated to push back. He's your classic taxpayer who keeps hoping things will “work themselves out” by April 15, not suspecting the IRS is basically Lucy holding a football. Charlie just wants everyone to be happy. Unfortunately, the IRS does not accept good intentions as currency.

And what does Charlie serve? A feast of toast, popcorn, and jellybeans prepared by Snoopy and Woodstock, two creatures who cannot legally operate a toaster. But at least they got something on the table. That's more than many taxpayers manage before December 31. The holiday special reveals a genuine truth: your plan doesn't have to be fancy. It just has to exist. Better a plate of toast and popcorn than an empty table.

Speaking of Snoopy, that dog works harder than any other character. He cooks, he sets the table, he wrangles Woodstock, he carves a turkey at the end (don't think too hard about that part), and he still manages to charm everyone. Snoopy is every tax pro in December: overworked, underappreciated, and somehow still festive.

The best moment, though, belongs to Marcie. She's the only one who acknowledges the obvious: Peppermint Patty was rude, Charlie Brown tried his best, and everyone should calm down and be grateful. Marcie is that one calm, reasonable client who follows directions, sends documents early, and never forwards you "IRS loophole" videos from influencers sitting in rented Lamborghinis. If all clients were Marcies, the world would be more peaceful, and tax pros would have an easier Thanksgiving holiday.

Of course, the story ends with everyone heading to Charlie Brown's grandmother's house, proving once again that extended family is always the backup plan. For tax planning, all backup plans lead to December 31—because after that, you're done. No do-overs. No time machines. No Woodstock flying in with a last-minute deduction. The clock strikes midnight, and whatever popcorn-and-toast tax plan you managed to assemble becomes the official dinner.

So here's the real lesson hiding under all the jellybeans. A perfect meal, or a perfect tax season, is rare. So this year, be the Snoopy of your financial life: get moving, get organized, and make sure we know everything we need to know before guests arrive! Because even toast and popcorn are better than nothing when November turns into December and the IRS starts sharpening its carving knife.

Kevin

