



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episode 9 Lesson Plan

Lesson Title: “They Saved Me ... I Wanted to Help”

TEKs: (c) Knowledge and skills.

(5) The student analyzes the structure of agriculture, food, and natural resources leadership in organizations. The student is expected to:

(A) develop and demonstrate leadership skills and collaborate with others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives;

(B) develop and demonstrate personal growth skills and collaborate with others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives;

(6) The student demonstrates appropriate personal and communication skills. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate written and oral communication skills appropriate for formal and informal situations such as prepared and extemporaneous presentations; and

(B) demonstrate effective listening skills appropriate for formal and informal situations.

(7) The student applies appropriate research methods to agriculture, food, and natural resources topics. The student is expected to:

(A) discuss major research and developments in the fields of agriculture, food, and natural resources;

(B) use a variety of resources for research and development;

Note. TEKs taken from the Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Course. However, similar TEKs can be found within any of the AFNR courses.

Terminal Performance Objective:

Through class instruction and the evaluation of the Growing Our Future podcast episode, students will create a presentation highlighting a charity or non-profit organization they would like to support, according to the criteria outlined in the assignment.

Enabling Objectives:

1. Identify the giving and gratitude.
2. Explore the various ways people can give selflessly.
3. Express gratitude for someone else.
4. Develop a presentation identifying philanthropic giving.

Vocabulary:

- **Adversity** - difficulties; misfortune.
- **Charity** - an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.
- **Effective Altruism** - A philosophical and social movement that draws on empirical evidence and reason to determine how to benefit as many people as possible.
- **Giving** - is providing love or other forms of support; emotional caring.
- **Gratitude** - is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness and joy. Gratitude helps people feel more positive

Bell Work:

Answer the following series of questions to the best of your ability:

1. What was the first gift you ever gave? Who did you give it to? Why did you give it that person?
Answers will vary.
2. Does it feel better to give a gift or to receive a gift? Explain why you chose what you chose.
Answers will vary.
3. Are all gifts tangible or physical gifts? Explain your thoughts.

emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

- **Measurable Goals** - identify exactly what it is you will see, hear, and feel when you reach your goal. It means breaking your goal down into measurable elements.
- **Mission Statement** – is a descriptive explanation of a company’s values, morals, and ethics. It commonly consists of a few sentences making one short paragraph explaining the 'how' and 'why' of a business.
- **Monetary** - relating to money or currency.
- **Philanthropy** - is defined as the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed mainly by the generous donation of money to good causes.
- **Private Foundation** - An independent legal entity established exclusively for charitable purposes.
- **Private Operating Foundation** - Any private foundation that spends at least 85 percent of its adjusted net income directly on its tax-exempt cause.
- **Selfless Giving** - the conscious, intentional approach to giving allows us to do things for others and our community that not only help and make a contribution, but also force us to push the boundaries of our comfort zone – thus experiencing a twinge of discomfort ourselves.
- **Strategic Giving** - giving guided by an overarching strategy to make a specific impact.
- **Talent** - there are people in our communities who have professional insights and expertise that have value if shared with the FFA. Recognize the sharing of their skill in helping your chapter excel.
- **Tangible** – an item you can physically touch.
- **Testimony** - some people have recognized voices in a community or through social media outlets. Having them promote and share a positive FFA testimony has value to our public image and development efforts.
- **Time** - some people may not have resources or extensive insights to share, but they are willing to volunteer their time to help with a project or

Answers will vary.

4. Can gratitude be a gift?

Answer will vary.

Give them a few minutes to answer the questions and then review the answers together as a class.

<p>activity. Their time has value, and it is being given to the FFA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasure - some people are blessed with financial resources and are more than willing to share. Monetary gifts are always appreciated and help meet operational and project expenses. • Venture Philanthropy – a mode of giving that takes concepts and techniques from the worlds of venture capital and business management and applies them to philanthropic efforts. • Vet - make a careful and critical examination of (something). • Vision Statement – describes what a company desires to achieve in the long-run, generally in a time frame of five to ten years, or sometimes even longer. It depicts a vision of what the company will look like in the future and sets a defined direction for the planning and execution of corporate-level strategies. 	
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Preparation

Instructor Notes	Activity Notes
<p>Pick an area of the classroom you can gather the students on the floor for a reading circle. Set up the area much like they might set up a reading area in elementary school. You can even bring in blankets, pillows, and snacks for the students to have during the reading of the story.</p> <p>Ask the students: <i>“What is the dictionary definition of ‘giving’?”</i></p> <p>Allow time to look up the answer, and then explain, <i>“According to Oxford Languages, giving is providing love or other forms of support; emotional caring. Now, why is giving an important part of our lives?”</i></p> <p>Allow time for responses, and then explain, <i>“Giving is a showing of your gratitude towards someone else. It can be a physical / tangible display of thank you or an emotional display. Why does showing gratitude feel good?”</i></p> <p>Allow time for responses, and then explain, <i>“Gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness and joy. Gratitude helps</i></p>	<p>Following bellwork, gather the class at the set-up reading circle.</p>

people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.”

Tell the class, *“Today, we are going to listen to the story of ‘The Giving Tree’ by Shel Silverstein. Please listen closely to the story, because there will be a series of questions at the end.”*

The instructor can show the video linked here or read the physical book if they have it already purchased. You may be able to find it in the library as well. Here you have multiple copies of the book, you can group students up and allow them to take turns reading the story out loud.

Ask the class, *“Why do you believe the author wrote this story?”*

Allow time for responses, and then explain, *“I believe the author wrote the story because he wanted to explain the importance of selfless giving. What is selfless giving?”*

Allow time for responses, and then explain, *“Selfless giving is the conscious, intentional approach to giving allowing us to do things for others and our community that not only help and make a contribution, but also force us to push the boundaries of our comfort zone – thus experiencing a twinge of discomfort ourselves.”*

Ask the class, *“Can you think of a time you gave selflessly?”*

Allow time for responses, and then ask, *“How does our relationships with other change when we give selflessly? Think about the relationship between the boy and the tree. How did it change over time?”*

Allow time for responses, and then explain, *“Now that we have identify the Oxford definition of giving and pointed out examples of giving in our own lives, I want you to each write your own definition of giving on an index card.”*

***The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFQZfeHg9wo>

Pass out one index card to each student. Ask the students to write their own personal definition of giving on the index card.

<p>Tell the class, <i>“Once you have your definition written, select one person in the room to share your definition with. Then put your index card in a safe place where it can be accessed year after year. Place it in a location that will remind you of the importance of giving.”</i></p>	<p>Ask students to do a “Think-pair-share” activity by sharing their definition of giving with someone else in class. Then have each student place their index card in a location where they can access it as a reminder. Example: purse, wallet, cover of a binder, back of the cell phone, etc.</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	
<p>Instructor Notes</p>	<p>Activity Notes</p>
<p>Tell the class, <i>“Today, we are going to hear from a young lady who isn’t much different than each of you. Madeline Barber, an FFA officer from Boerne, Texas, is a well-rounded student and successful member of her school’s chapter. However, Barber has an unbelievable testimony to share with us.</i></p> <p><i>Listen closely to this podcast episode because there will be a series of questions at the end.”</i></p> <p>Following the podcast video, ask the following series of questions to the class. The students who answer them correctly can get a treat (snack, candy, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you pronounce the FFA Chapter Madeline is from? • What officer position does she hope to run for in the upcoming year? • What type of livestock animal did Madeline show? • What organization did Madeline want to raise money for? • How much money did Madeline raise for her charity? • Why was this charity so important to Madeline? 	<p>Have students watch the Episode 9 of the Growing Our Future Podcast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTUebab0ec&t=33s <p>Pass out a treat to the students who answer the questions correctly.</p>
<p>Application</p>	
<p>Instructor Notes</p>	<p>Activity Notes</p>
<p>Tell the class, <i>“We each have someone in our lives we can say ‘thank you’ to. For your assignment today, I want each of you to think about a person or people in your life you would like to thank.”</i></p> <p>Read the “Attitude of Gratitude” handout to the class.</p>	<p>Introduce the Attitude of Gratitude assignment to the class by passing out the associated handout.</p>

Evaluation / Summary

Instructor Notes

Tell the class, *“For your final assignment, your group is going to learn more about charitable giving or as the business world would say ‘philanthropic giving’.*

Tell the class, *“In this booklet you are going to find information about philanthropic endeavors, how money gets spent in the nonprofit ecosystem, tips for pursuing your own giving goals, and other exclusive content.*

For your assignment, your group is going to create a presentation identifying a charity or non-profit organization you would like to support, such as St. Jude’s who Madeline supported.

In order to complete the project successfully, you will need to provide the follow information in your presentation:

- Provide a brief history of philanthropy
- Explain the four ways you can give.
- Complete Assignment #1 “What do you support?” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet.
- Complete Assignment #2 “What your giving goals?” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet.
- Complete Assignment #3 “Get to know your charity” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet.
- Identify the category of charity or non-profit organization you chose to support:
 - Venture Philanthropy
 - Private Operating Foundation
 - Private Foundation
 - Strategic Giving
 - Effective Altruism
- Identify 10 facts about the “hidden work of charities” you didn’t know before.

Tell the class, *“You will have two class periods to complete the assignment. Afterwards, your group will present their presentation to the class. Your group will be graded based upon the criteria listed on the assignment handout.”*

Activity Notes

Break the class up into groups of two to three students per group.

Pass out the “Cultivating Gratitude – The Guide to Giving” booklet to each group.

Pass out the “Cultivating Gratitude” assignment. The assignment will be a major grade. Students should be given two class periods to complete the assignment.



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episode 9 The “Attitude of Gratitude” Assignment



The Attitude of Gratitude project is designed to engage FFA members, agriscience teachers, administrators, sponsors, and Texas FFA supporters in showcasing their gratitude for each other through monthly email and social media shoutouts.

The Texas FFA Foundation is incredibly GRATEFUL for the individuals who serve and advocate for the Texas FFA, Agriculture Science Education, and the Agriculture Industry.

Do you know someone who is a tremendous advocate for agriculture, FFA, and Ag Science Education? We'd like to help YOU show the incredible servant leaders in your life some Gratitude.

Directions: Fill out the link below to give a shoutout to the special individuals in your life!
Form Link: <https://forms.gle/w1EuSw7PbW4nN8G2A>

Form Instructions:

- 1.) Type in the link above.
- 2.) Fill out the form, nominating your servant leader for a shout out via email.
- 3.) Check the box to agree or deny a shout out on social media.
- 4.) Click Submit & DONE!



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episode 9 The “Cultivating Gratitude” Assignment

Directions: To complete the project successfully, you will need to provide the follow information in your presentation. You will have two class periods to complete the assignment. Afterwards, your group will present your presentation to the class. Your group will be graded based upon the criteria listed below:

- Provide a brief history of philanthropy = **10 Points**
- Explain the four ways you can give = **10 Points**
- Complete Assignment #1 “What do you support?” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet = **20 Points**
- Complete Assignment #2 “What are your giving goals?” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet = **20 Points**
- Complete Assignment #3 “Get to know your charity” in the “Cultivating Gratitude” booklet. = **20 Points**
- Identify the category of charity or non-profit organization you chose to support = **10 Points**
 - Venture Philanthropy
 - Private Operating Foundation
 - Private Foundation
 - Strategic Giving
 - Effective Altruism
- Identify 10 facts about the “hidden work of charities” you didn’t know before = **10 Points**



Cultivating Gratitude

Let's Talk About Giving



Why Does "Giving" Feel So Good?

3 research-backed reasons worth knowing

It reduces stress and anxiety.

Biochemical analysis reveals that volunteering can spark positive changes in the body's immune system and reduce stress hormones. One study found that helping others seemed to erase the harmful physical effects of stressful experiences.

It can make you feel high.

Studies show that even donating money can release feel-good neurochemicals, activating the same parts of your brain stimulated by pleasurable food and romance. Scientists believe this so-called "helper's high" can lead to better health and increased longevity.

It expands your perspective.

Beyond physical or monetary acts of charity, researchers have found that simply listening and providing advice can be helpful to both the giver and the receiver. For example, studies by the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago involving 2,274 subjects found that students who mentored younger schoolmates spent more time on their homework.



What is Philanthropy?

Philanthropy is defined as the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed mainly by the generous donation of money to good causes. At the Texas FFA Foundation, philanthropy goes beyond just giving money. We put philanthropy into four categories that we call the 4Ts:



- **Time** – some people may not have resources or extensive insights to share, but they are willing to volunteer their time to help with a project or activity. Their time has value, and it is being given to the FFA.



- **Talent** – there are people in our communities who have professional insights and expertise that have value if shared with the FFA. Recognize the sharing of their skill in helping your chapter excel.



- **Treasure** – some people are blessed with financial resources and are more than willing to share. Monetary gifts are always appreciated and help meet operational and project expenses.



- **Testimony** – some people have recognized voices in a community or through social media outlets. Having them promote and share a positive FFA testimony has value to our public image and development efforts.

History of Philanthropy

What do you see when you think of the word "philanthropist"?

Pictures of old-money benefactors in top hats and furs? Famous actors and politicians? The truth is philanthropists from many backgrounds have transformed their communities for the better.

The Philanthropy Initiative at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., catalogs the myriad ways U.S. residents have given their time and resources to effect change. Sometimes their efforts were born of crisis; sometimes, they arose from a longstanding desire to live in a healthier, more equitable society. Philanthropy should mean "love of humankind."

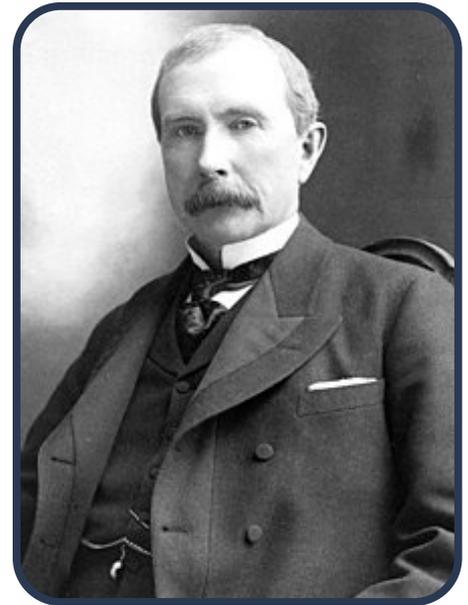
Consider the residents of Chinatown in New York City, who established a health clinic in the 1970s in the name of culturally appropriate and medically competent care. Or, reaching even further back, take the townspeople of Plymouth, Massachusetts, who, in 1794, lobbied the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to award a sizable cash sum to a Black man who had rescued a drowning white child—a rare show of racial amity at the time.

Revolutionary Beginnings

While early American philanthropy was often an insular exercise, only benefiting recipients who shared the giver's own religious, ethnic, or national background, the American Revolutionary War between 1775 and 1783 marked a turning point. With universal benevolence as their lofty ideal, altruistic Britons and Americans sought to use philanthropy to mend political wounds and prevent further violence.



Right: American oil magnate John Davison Rockefeller.
Above: A canceled stamp from the United States featuring philanthropist Emily Bissell



Regarding causes like antislavery, charities began springing up to improve the lives of those outside a giver's sphere.

Not everyone favored philanthropy-focused efforts that crossed community borders, however. By the early 1800s, rising social tension led to magazine headlines such as "False Philanthropy" and "Quack Philanthropy," even as antislavery organizations proudly self-identified as "philanthropic." In 1831, American journalist William Lloyd Garrison published the first issue of *The Liberator*, a magazine that advocated for the abolition of slavery. Garrison's creation spurred philanthropy and assisted in the creation of the Underground Railroad.

Industrial capitalists transformed the meaning of philanthropy again by making large charitable donations that the press described as “philanthropic”—thus tying the word to monetary contributions alone. In addition, American titans like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller created trusts and foundations for higher education, ethics, medicine, museums, and libraries.

A Tool for Social Advancement

Before they won the right to vote, women used philanthropy to influence public life. For example, in the late 1800s, Emily Bissel, a lifelong social activist, was disturbed by the lack of recreational spaces for working-class men in her hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, so she lobbied for the creation of an athletic club that would serve them; that club would later expand its services to include women and their children.



American steel magnate Andrew Carnegie

Bissel also raised funds for a tuberculosis cure and advocated for child labor laws. Notably, Bissel was not in favor of granting women the right to vote because she thought it would threaten the clout of those like her: powerful women who saw philanthropy as an apolitical endeavor. But insofar as philanthropy can surmount significant cultural barriers—as its antislavery champions would attest—it is by its nature political.

Philanthropy Today

Since the 1950s, charitable giving per capita in the U.S. has nearly quadrupled. In 2020, charitable giving represented 2.25 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). These days, 67 percent of all households donate an average of 4 percent of their income to charity (the rest don't donate at all). Still, studies have consistently found that those in the low-est-income bracket give away a significantly more significant percentage of their income than wealthy individuals do.

Given the vast socioeconomic range of charitable givers, it may be a surprise that philanthropy is often used to describe large monetary gifts—making it an alienating concept to those with overdraft fees in their bank accounts. Once you start looking, however, you can see evidence of philanthropy everywhere. No wonder humans are biologically hardwired to help one another.

Seven Proven Reasons Why People Give to Charities



1. Scientific studies have proven that giving releases the “feel-good” chemical dopamine in the brain, making us happy.
2. Donors feel empowered when they see their gifts doing the good the charity says they will.
3. They have a personal or emotional connection to a cause.
4. A charity or nonprofit is one that donors can trust. The work gets done, a change is made, and they see it.
5. They want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Whether animal welfare, medical research, or foundations for the arts, culture, and humanities, donors feel they belong to a larger community and are making a difference.
6. The charity has caught their attention. Perhaps they’ve seen advertising for fundraising events in the community, or through Facebook fundraising tools, or heard about the charity through social media posts. The charity comes to their attention, and they give.
7. Tax purposes. It’s not only corporations and wealthy households that donate money just for tax breaks. About one-third of all tax deductions for charitable donations are taken by those making \$50,000 or less each year.

ASSIGNMENT

What Do You Support?

If you want to get more out of your life, try thinking about what animates, inspires, and drives you to do good. Living these values may not be possible in every scenario, but thinking hard about—and taking note of—what you stand for can help give you a clearer sense of how to create positive change. Ready to do some self-assessing?

STEP 1. Reflect on Past Adversity



Think back to when you were psychologically, socially, and existentially challenged by forces outside your control. Perhaps you found yourself rethinking your relationships after a loss, or you discovered a new sense of resilience in the face of rejection. Write down how you got through the experience, what you learned, and how it changed you.

STEP 2. Find Your People



Think about the people you most admire or love. Is it their openness that compels you? Their listening skills? Their loyalty? An incredibly empathetic colleague always helps you when you feel lost. Perhaps you love watching interviews with a specific cultural figure because of their insight and radical honesty. List these people and the values they represent to you. See if you notice any commonalities.

STEP 3. Recognize Your Wins



Think about a time when you believed you were making a difference. What were you doing, and why did it matter so much to you? Which parts of your personality felt most activated by the experience? Write about what you did and how it made you feel.

STEP 4. Affirm Your Values



Using the first three steps as inspiration, circle or highlight three words that best align with your answers. Refer to these words whenever you feel stuck or uninspired, or use them to construct an affirmation (“I am honest, humble, and inquisitive.”).



Philosophies of Giving

Before you get involved with any particular organization, it's important to understand its legal classification and the philosophy that guides its mission. Here's a quick primer on some of the key terms you may find in your research.



Venture Philanthropy

A mode of giving that takes concepts and techniques from the worlds of venture capital and business management and applies them to philanthropic efforts. Donors practicing venture philanthropy view their gifts as investments, bringing the same analytical rigor they would use to assess the prospects of a for-profit organization.

Private Operating Foundation

Any private foundation that spends at least 85 percent of its adjusted net income directly on its tax-exempt cause. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation fits this bill, too, as do many other corporate, familial, and religious organizations.

Private Foundation

An independent legal entity established exclusively for charitable purposes. A private foundation is typically funded by a single individual, family, or corporation; by contrast, a public-supported charity receives the bulk of its funding from the general public. (Declaring one's organization a "foundation" is a tax-related distinction required by the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. federal agency that oversees the collection of taxes.) The Bill & Gates Foundation fits under this umbrella.

Strategic Giving

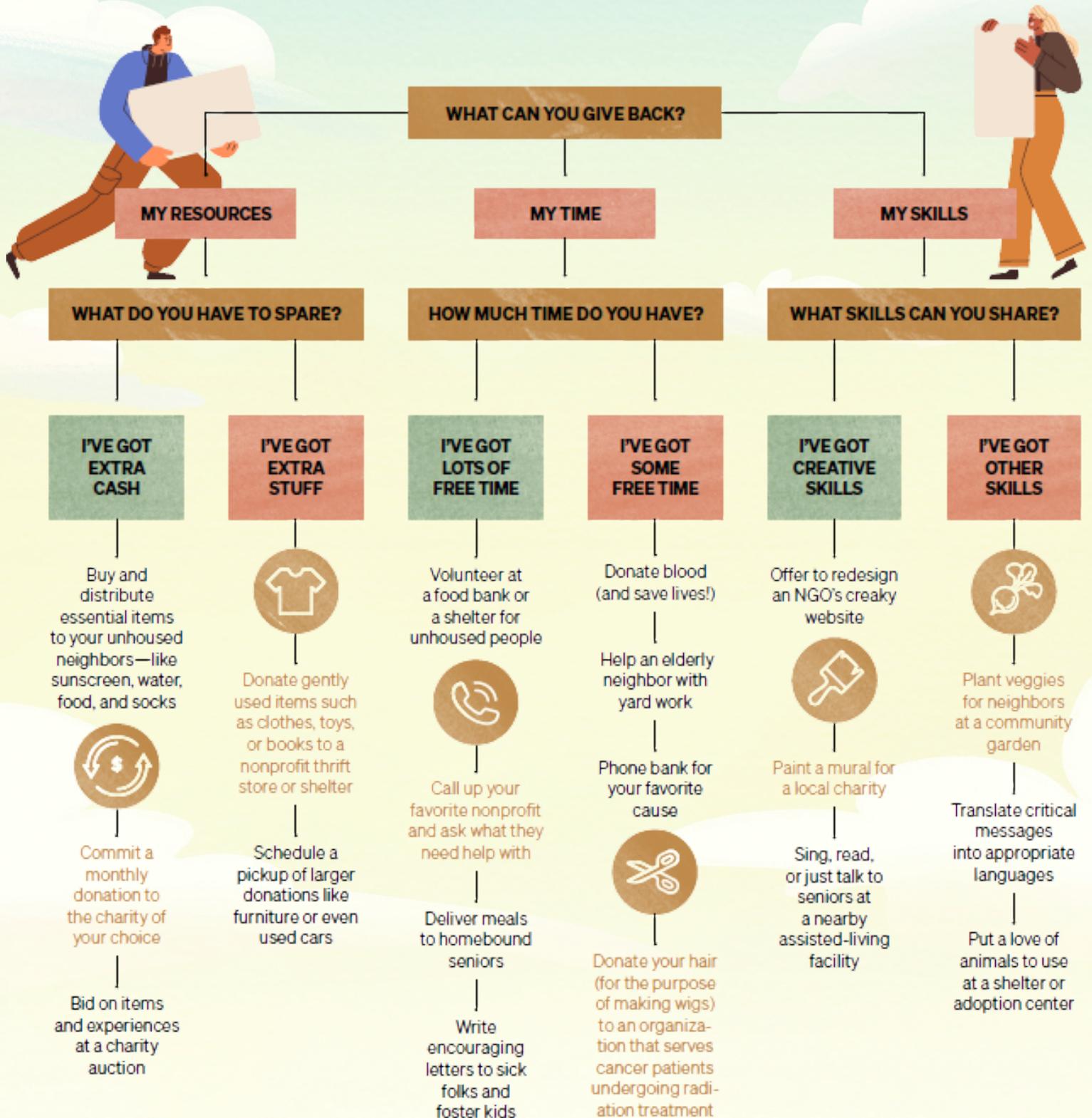
Giving guided by an overarching strategy to make a specific impact. Strategic givers choose intentionally among many options based on predetermined criteria. They could be focused on geography, need, or a particular charitable sector, among many other factors. The strategic giver may tend to donate more money to fewer groups, rather than spread the wealth to more organizations.

Effective Altruism

A philosophical and social movement that draws on empirical evidence and reason to determine how to benefit as many people as possible. Like strategic giving, it's a way to think about charity—but effective altruism is also a way to think about living a purposeful life. Effective altruists eschew their own material needs in order to maximize the welfare of others—by, say, donating the majority of their earnings.

Your Unique Path to Giving

Whether it's time, expertise, money, or just some extra items you have around the house, everyone has something to give. Don't know where to start? Use this flowchart to generate some ideas.



ASSIGNMENT

What are your giving goals?

Measuring your progress—especially when tackling significant societal issues—is much easier when you’ve set clear goals. Philanthropist will often make ambitious long-term goals for themselves, like increasing access to contraceptives or eradicating disease, but she also tries to meet measurable goals along the way. You can adopt a similar strategy for your change-making. Here’s how:

1. Identify Your Long-Term Goal

What kind of systemic change do you hope to spur? Maybe you’d like to advocate for renewable energy or equitable housing policy. It’s okay to set an enormous goal, so long as it’s something you’re passionate about and willing to work toward.

2. Break It Down

Write a list of concrete actions you can take to accomplish your goal, whether calling up your local political representative, meeting with people who share your objective, or donating to a specific organization. Be aware that if the goal is significant (for example, ending hunger in your community), you’ll need a coalition of allies and advocates to accomplish it.

3. Adjust as Needed

It’s okay to adjust your goals constantly. Maybe you receive feedback that makes you reevaluate your strategy. Or perhaps you discover new information that changes your mind. Remaining flexible is especially important in fieldwork, where conditions on the ground can change rapidly.

4. Identify Barriers—but Don’t Let Them Stop You

In the course of your efforts, you may encounter barriers that seem insurmountable. They don’t have to be physical; they could be cultural, political, or personal. In these cases, it’s vital to slow down and ask yourself, “Why is that barrier there?” Then, be patient, ask for advice (especially from those in the community you’re hoping to help), and identify the root cause of the barrier before attempting to break it down.



Where Does Your Money

GO?

Charting the many ways that cash gets spent in the nonprofit ecosystem.

The U.S. nonprofit sector is massive—and massively complex. According to an American magazine Nonprofit Quarterly analysis, more than 679,000 U.S. nonprofits generated around \$2 trillion in revenue—more than the GDP of Brazil—per 2015 labor stats. These organizations also employed twelve million people and helped another sixty-three million find opportunities to volunteer. The lion's share of nonprofit revenue, amounting to approximately \$1 trillion, is derived from private sources such as college-tuition fees and insurance payments to nonprofit medical centers. (Yes, while some may think “charity” when they hear “nonprofit,” many universities and hospitals fit the bill, too.) The U.S. federal government, meanwhile, contributes \$491 billion to nonprofit organizations.

Individual donations may seem pretty paltry by comparison—a revenue source of “just” \$265 billion. But for many organizations, these donations are the lifeblood of their operations.

The Overhead Myth

Potential donors often need to be more confident that their money will go to the nonprofit machine's wrong entities. For example, the so-called “overhead myth” is the idea that a nonprofit's legitimacy is directly tied to how much money is spent on cause versus operations—like office space, utilities, marketing expenses, and equipment—and that such organizations often overspend on administrative and fundraising costs.

Charities are sometimes held to far more stringent standards than the average corporation. A startup, for example, could require years—and lots of marketing dollars—to turn a profit while still attracting plenty of investors; an NGO, on the other hand, may be penalized by potential funders for raising money to operate programs or improve efficiency.

In a 2012 survey, 62 percent Americans reported that they believed nonprofits spend too much on overhead, a perception that sometimes prevents a nonprofit from modernizing and tracking its performance and retaining talent. A 2006 study of nearly two

Thousand nonprofit executives found that receiving general operating support was (surprise, surprise) crucial to reducing burnout and stress among executive directors.

Unnecessary overhead costs can be a useful data point for rooting out fraud or poor financial management. But ultimately, experts say, any analysis of an organization's overhead must be weighed against its performance.

How to Track Your Money

Understandably, funders would want to see how much of their money goes toward the causes they care about most. Thankfully, tracking said cash is relatively easy. Resources like Open990 and the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS), which display tax information, make it easy to track how nonprofits compensate their leaders and how much they spend on expenses. In addition, you can see how much an organization puts toward fundraising, investment management, accounting, and legal fees.

Experts say you should aim to donate to charities that spend at least 75 percent of their income on programs geared toward fulfilling the nonprofit's mission. You can get more granular still by comparing the numbers on the charity's Form 990, used by organizations to share information with the public about their programs, including annual reports and audited financial statements. (You may need an accountant or financial advisor to review these documents, as they contain much more detail.)

If you don't want to sift through mountains of data, you can rely on trusted experts to do it for you.

Websites like GiveWell assemble in-depth research to list top charities that do the best for the least cost. Their rankings are based on rigorous research by more than two dozen experts who extensively monitor an organization's cost-effectiveness.

Other Considerations

If you're analyzing how a charity operates and spends on your own, you might also want to look into how the charity evaluates itself. Does it use independent auditors to benchmark its performance? Does it acknowledge when it has failed? A transparent organization provides this information along with its progress reports. Charities should also establish clear short- and long-term goals and be able to identify the progress they've made toward those goals. Some charities will also explain how their mission is supported by academic research. If you have the time, check out this info on the organization's website or call its staff to see if they can better explain their strategies.

Watch out for red flags, too. For example, some charities that appeal emotionally—often involving children or animals—can be scams. To ensure you're giving to a legitimate organization, see if it's listed on CharityWatch, which grades charities from A+ to F. You can also peruse that website's list of top-rated charities by category; you'll find similar lists on websites like Charity Navigator and Consumer Reports.



ASSIGNMENT

Get to know your Charity.

Find a charity that seems worthy of your hard-earned money, then follow these steps to ensure you'll give to a legitimate organization.

1. Check Its Mission

How an organization describes its purpose can tell you much about where your money is going. If the organization's values don't align with yours, or if it's unclear how an organization is delivering on its mission, pick another one.

2. Dig Into the Data

Because public charities in the U.S. are registered with the government as 501(c)3 nonprofits, they must file an annual form that provides an overview of their mission, finances, and governance. Public websites like Open990 can give you a good idea of how much the organization pays its CEO and how much it spends on various programs, among other key data points.

3. Find Out Who's Running the Show

Solid leadership is vital for a nonprofit. Do a little digging and see whether a charity's executives have experience running a nonprofit (keeping in mind that some credible charity executives come from the business world), how long they've been dedicated to the cause, and whether they have any glaring conflicts of interest.

4. Evaluate Efficiency

While the "overhead myth" is something to bear, experts still say that charities should allocate 70 percent or more of their budget to their programs. Websites like GuideStar will clearly state a charity's expense ratio, including how much is spent on programs, and often assign the organization a score based on that ratio. The sites also analyze how much a charity spends on administration and fundraising expenses.

5. Scope the Real-World Results

If you want to analyze a charity's tangible effects, look for reviews of the group's work on the website GreatNon-profits. Featuring more than thirty-six thousand testimonials from folks who've donated to, and been helped by, charitable organizations, this resource may help you gain a greater appreciation for an organization's impact.

6. Ensure Transparency

A charity should be an open book. It could be a deal breaker if it isn't sharing all it's doing. Websites like Charity Navigator can help you assess a non-profit, providing information about whether it submits financial audits by an independent accountant if there's a conflict-of-interest policy, and more.

Individual vs. Corporate Giving



Understanding Individual Giving

- Over 80% of all donations to charities and nonprofit organizations in the US come from individuals.
- Six out of ten (or 60%) American households participate in some charitable giving, according to The Philanthropy Roundtable.
- Charity Navigator, a charity and nonprofit watchdog report that Americans have given more every year since 1977, except for 1987, 2008, and 2009. So, in that respect, 2020 followed the trend of more total giving than the year before.
- According to Giving USA, Americans' average annual charity donation in 2020 was \$737.
- December is the most popular month for charitable giving, and December 2019 and 2020 were no exceptions to this rule.
- According to the Blackbaud Institute, March, April, and May of 2020 saw significant declines in many sectors of charitable giving as Americans were in the teeth of the pandemic. Nonprofit Source reports that charities with recurring monthly giving program members receive \$52 on average each month.
- Donors that set up recurring monthly donations give 42% more than one-time givers, claims Nonprofit Source.

Corporate Giving

- Corporate donations to nonprofits totaled \$24.8 billion in 2020, a decrease of 6%, according to Giving USA's report.
- Corporate giving is closely tied to pre-tax profits, while individual giving is more closely tied to the stock market. The stock market was up last year, while many corporations saw profits decline due to the pandemic.

The Hidden Work of Charities All Around You

It's almost impossible to go daily without personally benefiting from historical or contemporary charitable donations. These are just a few ways the work of philanthropists enriches your life.





Texas FFA Foundation

“The Texas FFA Foundation is growing a better future by collaborating with sponsors, teachers, and students to continue leading a dynamic legacy of support, leadership, advocacy, and stewardship. Creating inclusiveness and opportunities to share time, talents, treasures, and testimonies.”



Mission

The Texas FFA Foundation seeks to strengthen agricultural education and the Texas FFA program, so each student can develop their potential for personal growth, career success and leadership in a global marketplace.

Vision

Through a coordinated effort to engage all internal and external stakeholders, the Texas FFA Foundation will work to advance agricultural education and the FFA program.

Building on the proven success of agricultural education and the FFA program, our mission will be distinguished by the continued development, funding and implementation of cutting-edge learning opportunities focusing on critical thinking, technical and practical skills, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills, strong work ethic, and academic achievement.

Progressively, the Texas FFA Foundation will work with affiliate organizations to more clearly define the public’s understanding of the personal and economic value of agricultural education and the FFA.

The Texas FFA Foundation understands the critical role of agricultural science teachers. We will promote our teachers as valuable resources dedicated to teaching and service to the profession and their communities. As a necessary step in enhancing the range and depth of our teacher’s capabilities, the Foundation will work to develop effective programs and alliances with corporate sponsors, private foundations, community, education professionals, and governmental leaders to maximize learning opportunities for teachers, students, and communities.

To ensure a dynamic future for agricultural education and the FFA program, Texas FFA Foundation will seek financial resources sufficient to sustain these programs in perpetuity.

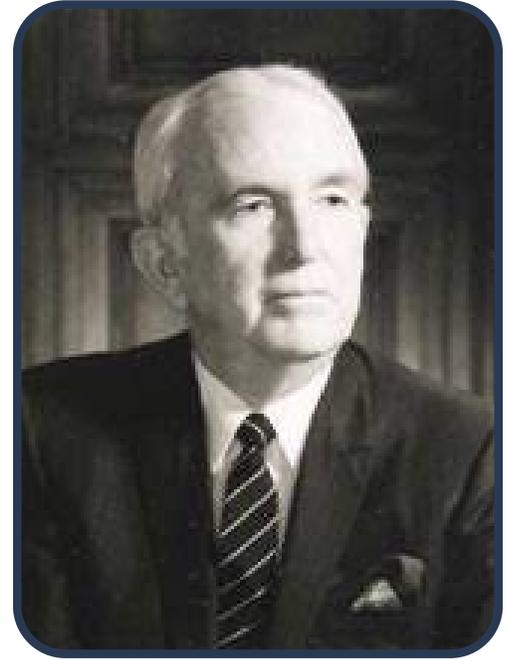




Texas FFA Foundation

Established in 1987, the Texas FFA Foundation is the development arm of the Texas Team Ag Ed. Leadership for the foundation's activities is provided by a board of directors, and managerial leadership is administered by an executive director and staff. The foundation board has as many as 27 directors.

The Texas FFA Foundation came about partly due to the gifts of C. J. "Red" Davidson, a Fort Worth oilman who, on his morning walk in downtown Fort Worth, happened to a group of well-dressed and groomed blue-corduroy-clad boys streaming into the Tarrant County Convention Center. Impressed with their conduct and appearance, he walked into the 41st Texas FFA Convention, spending the better part of the morning watching the state officers conduct the business of the state association and give eloquent presentations. This was the beginning of a relationship that established the C.J. "Red" Davidson Scholarship.



Above: Caven J. "Red" Davidson 1973

Upon Mr. Davidson's passing, stocks were given to ensure the perpetuation of the scholarship program. The stocks quickly grew in value, and the Texas FFA's leadership realized the need to create a foundation to manage the C.J. "Red" Davidson assets and to raise funds to ensure the future of Texas FFA scholarships and programming. Jay Eudy, then Director of Agricultural Science and Technology, was the first chairman of the Texas FFA Foundation board of directors.

In 2000, a focus group representing a cross-section of agricultural education stakeholders – teachers, state staff, farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness leaders assembled in Austin to chart opportunities for the organization. This group became known as the "Texas FFA Leadership Council" [The current executive director, Aaron Alejandro, was a member of the original leadership council]. The needs and priorities were captured in a sponsorship menu for a capital campaign to raise \$15 million dollars – as a challenge goal - to provide an endowment to achieve the goals identified by the leadership council.

The Texas FFA Foundation Capital Campaign kicked off at the 74th Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth in 2002 under the leadership of Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Paul Engler, President/CEO of Cactus Cattle Feeders in Amarillo, and Anne Anderson, an Austin-based strategic consultant. The campaign was launched with a \$1.3 million gift from the Ford Motor Company and Texas Ford Dealers. In 2005, the Texas FFA Foundation announced at the 77th Convention that the three-year goal of \$3.5 million had been met and surpassed, with more than \$4.2 million raised.





Texas FFA Foundation



In 2006, the foundation secured the FFA's first Title Co-sponsors of the state convention. Justin Brands and Farm Credit Banks of Texas teamed up to underwrite a significant portion of the 78th Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth, 79th in Corpus Christi, and 80th in Lubbock as part of a three-year commitment.

A portion of the Ford gift made the construction of the Texas FFA Leadership Center in Austin possible. Prior to its construction, all entities (Texas FFA Association, Texas FFA Foundation, ATAT, and VATAT Credit Union) were housed in the ATAT headquarters building at the same address, a building that was built to accommodate only the ATAT and its credit union. Groundbreaking for the project took place in April of 2003; the building was finished in November of the same year, with official ribbon-cutting ceremonies in January 2004.

Today, the Texas FFA Foundation continues its mission to support agricultural science education and Texas FFA programs by forging corporate relations, encouraging individual giving, and seeking to engage former members in giving back to the program that, for many, was the foundation of a successful career.

			
STUDENTS INVOLVED IN JUST TWO SEMESTERS OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION GRADUATE AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE	ACADEMIC AND AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN THROUGH THE TEXAS FFA ANNUALLY EXCEED \$2.3 MILLION	FFA SCHOLARSHIPS STUDENTS ARE MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR ABILITY TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY LEADERS VALUE FFA STUDENTS IN THEIR RECRUITMENT AND ALLOCATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Students Making an Impact



**Want to Donate?
Scan Me.**

Meet the Texas FFA Foundation Staff

All Past FFA Members!



Aaron Alejandro
Executive Director



Chanda Orren
Executive Assistant &
Scholarship Coordinator



Kassie Montford
Coordinator of Development &
Planning

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FOLLOW TEXAS FFA FOUNDATION AT





Texas FFA Foundation



This fund will help FFA chapters and agricultural education programs rebuild following natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey. Donations to this fund will be dispersed via an application process directly to the programs and chapters affected by the storm. This is our chance to show the country and the world how much Texans and the Agricultural Education Family care about each other.

A donation to the **“A New Day: Texas Agricultural Education Disaster Relief Fund”** can be made by sending a check or money order to:

**Texas FFA Foundation
Attn: A New Day Crisis Fund
614 E. 12th Street
Austin, TX 78701**

Please make checks payable to the Texas FFA Foundation and write “A New Day Crisis Fund” in the memo section of the check or money order. Donations are tax-deductible.

If your program/chapter is in need of support from the A New Day Crisis Relief Fund, please apply by scanning the QR Code Here:



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FOLLOW TEXAS FFA FOUNDATION AT



Famous "Giving" Quotes

**"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
-Winston Churchill**

**"It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it."
-Albert Einstein**

**"No one has ever become poor from giving."
-Anne Frank**

**"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."
-Ben Carson**

**"Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others."
-Booker T. Washington**

**"Think of giving not as a duty, but as a privilege."
-John D. Rockefeller Jr.**

References

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