

THE PHILANTHROPY TOOLKIT

An Introduction to Giving Effectively

THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY
EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY LEARNING INITIATIVE



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G

ACTIVITY REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY

INSTRUCTIONS

Review the questions in Activity G and jot down your thoughts. You do not have to answer all the questions, but we recommend you give each topic some consideration before reaching out to your family members.

For more information on discussing philanthropy with your family, see **Additional Resources: Section 3** at the end of this toolkit.



WORKSHEET
REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY

INSTRUCTIONS
Review the questions below and jot down your thoughts. You may also wish to discuss your ideas with trusted peers or advisors to understand your options before reaching out to your family members.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Whom do you consider family? Who in your family would you like to involve in your philanthropy (e.g, immediate family members, stepchildren, children’s spouses, those in the local area)?

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- How do you think about your philanthropic identity? Is it a continuation of the legacy between your parents and older family members or are you forging a new legacy?
- Does your philanthropic vision take you well into the future or is it something you would want to revisit periodically to fit changing circumstances in the world?
- How would you feel about the next generation playing a role?
- How do your children see how they want to give back to the world? If they are young, how do you want to engage them in thinking about these issues, if at all?
- How do you feel about spouses being involved?
- Are you interested in designing various tiers of participation and ways to incentivize active participation and leadership?
- What values inform your giving and that of your family? Have you crafted a vision and mission statement? Would you want to involve your family in this process?
- Would you prefer to spend down all of your philanthropic assets in your lifetime, or to set up a philanthropic vehicle that outlives you and exists in perpetuity? If you prefer a perpetual giving entity, how and when will you hand over the reins? In the future would you prefer it to be managed by your family members, trusted non-family advisors, or some combination?
- Are you concerned that including your children could have too much influence on their ambition or life paths? If so, why? What are some personal parameters or guard rails you have about engaging your children in philanthropy? Have you shared those with your children?



WORKSHEET
REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY

LOGISTICS AND AVAILABILITY

- What are your expectations about time investment from family members?
- Are in-person meetings feasible, or will some family members have to engage remotely?
- What are your expectations for how often your family will revisit philanthropic decisions (e.g., annual or semiannual meetings)?

You should ask individual family members about their availability before the first family gathering to give them an opportunity to signal their level of interest.

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COMMUNICATION

- How does your family communicate other important matters?
- How does your family communicate when in disagreement?
- How can you communicate expectations about roles and responsibilities?

It may help to brainstorm a set of communication ground rules at the first family gathering, and have everyone involved agree to uphold those rules.

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WORKSHEET
REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY

DECISION-MAKING

- As the primary donor, which decisions would you prefer to make by yourself?
- Which decisions could be made with family members?
- How would you like group decisions to be made (e.g., majority vote, consensus)?
- What are your family’s strengths and weaknesses when it comes to group decision-making? How can you address the weaknesses?
- When and how might you use outside advisors or experts to help inform your family decision-making?

It can be helpful to review the Toolkit Primer in the Introduction and indicate which activities/decisions could be group decisions for your family.

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WORKSHEET
REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILY

IMPLEMENTATION

- What are your expectations for family members' involvement in implementing philanthropic decisions?
- Are there particular family members you expect to be more involved in carrying out certain activities (e.g., site visits, meetings with advisors)?

The next page includes a list of common roles for family members to help you identify possible implementation roles.

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