

# THE PHILANTHROPY TOOLKIT

*An Introduction to Giving Effectively*

THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY LEARNING INITIATIVE



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ACTIVITY

INTRODUCE THE NEXT GENERATION  
TO PHILANTHROPY

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Introduce the next generation (e.g., your children or grandchildren) to the significance of philanthropy and the process of giving through discussion-based reflections and interactive activities.



WORKSHEET  
**INTRODUCE THE NEXT GENERATION  
TO PHILANTHROPY**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
Below are four discussion-based reflections and interactive activities that you can complete with your children, grandchildren, or other younger family members.

**REFLECT ON FAMILY VALUES**

Sharing your values will help the next generation understand why you pursue philanthropy and the greater mission and vision you seek. Use your selected Value Cards and the extra deck of Value Cards from the back of the toolkit to guide your discussion.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FORMAT**  
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- Spread out one set of Value Cards on a table.
- Ask children to select three to five cards that represent the values most important to them. If there are remaining blank cards from your exercise, they may want to write in other values. You can substitute sticky notes or index cards if you need more blank cards. We recommend having up to five write-in cards.
- Following the children's selection, share your own choices. If you and they selected any of the same cards, move those cards to a separate "Shared Values" pile.
- For each remaining card, ask the children why they chose that value. What does that value mean to them?
- After listening to their responses, explain your own selections. Remember that this reflection is discussion-based; there are no right or wrong answers.
- Once done, ask the children which cards they would like to add to the "Shared Values" pile.



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**START A CONVERSATION**

We encourage you to have a conversation with your younger family members about the reasons for your previous giving. Sharing your motivations to give inspires the next generation to act philanthropically. Reflect on the following before beginning, to guide your conversation:

1. What role has giving played in your life?

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2. What gifts, either given or received, have been most meaningful to you, especially as a child or young adult, and why?

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WORKSHEET

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**SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FORMAT**  
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Discussing your philanthropy and its meaning with younger family members can be straightforward. If you are looking for prompts, consider the following:

- Share your giving history with a particular organization. Ask if they know why you have chosen to support this organization.
- Share an anecdote about how your life has been affected by a certain organization or issue.
- Share a story about how someone helped you in a meaningful way or how you received help from an organization.

**SET UP A "GIVING ALLOWANCE"**

Learning by doing provides motivation and experience for the next generation to engage philanthropically. This activity teaches children how to handle charitable donations and demonstrates thoughtfulness and intention in the decision-making process.

First, set up a "giving allowance"—an amount that you feel would be age-appropriate. You can set an allowance per individual or ask the children to come to a consensus. Then, follow the instructions on the following page.

Determine how often you want to do this activity (e.g., monthly, biannually, annually, etc.). Some families choose to do it during the holiday season, on days of recognition (e.g., Earth Day, Veterans Day), or on birthdays. Use the Issue Cards and the Budget Coins from the back of the toolkit to guide your discussion.



WORKSHEET

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**SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FORMAT**  
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- Spread out the Issue Cards on a table. You may choose to omit any issues that will not resonate or are not age-appropriate. Use the write-in cards to add issues, if desired. If you need additional write-in cards, you can substitute sticky notes or index cards.
- Ask the children to select up to three issues that are important to them.
- Review the backs of the selected cards together and circle any specific focus areas of interest (e.g., special education, cancer), or write-in focus areas that are not listed.
- Once the issues have been selected, brainstorm organizations in your community or area that have connections to them. Older children can do Internet research independently. For younger children, you can research online together or ask whether their school raises funds for specific organizations.
- Ask the children to decide on the amount to donate to each issue from their giving allowance. It may help to use the Budget Coins. For younger age groups, using the amount (e.g., \$25, \$100) may be easier to understand than percentages. Use the write-in coins (or sticky notes) to guide the decision-making process.
- Decide together how you would like to make the donation (e.g., through an online pledge, by check, by contacting the organization).