

Resources

(in your community and beyond)

to Identify

Giving

Opportunities

We recognize that many young people are looking to dip their toes in philanthropy, but aren't sure where to start. To help launch this process, and answer some of those early questions, Sound Philanthropy has developed a series of simple guides. We hope that you enjoy them.



STARTING POINT

You're ready to launch yourself into a giving experience that aligns with your values, but you don't know where to start.

Sound familiar?

You have a sense of your interests and passions, and where you want to make change, but you find yourself struggling to connect with the organizations that are working in the issue areas that are important to you. You are also looking for tools to evaluate whether they are effective in their services and having the impact you seek.

You are not alone

You may have the energy and enthusiasm for giving, but it's hard to find the organizations that are meeting the needs that you feel passionate about and doing it well. The good news is that there are national and local resources for identifying and evaluating nonprofits, and ways to connect with others who share your interests, to learn and experience giving with peers.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

Community Foundations

A tax-exempt, nonprofit, autonomous, publicly supported, nonsectarian philanthropic institution with a long-term goal of addressing the needs of a specific geographic region. Community Foundations are made up of funds established by many individuals and families, who advise the foundation on the direction of grants coming from their named fund.

Community Foundations are a great way to connect with local needs, hand off the administrative responsibilities of giving to an expert, and many community foundations offer interesting educational programs and consulting services for families.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

Giving Circles

Giving Circles are a form of philanthropy where groups of individuals donate their own money and/or time to a pooled fund, decide together where to donate to charity or community projects and, in doing so, seek to increase their awareness of and engagement in the issues covered by the charity or community project.

Many circles, in addition to donating their money, also contribute their time and skills to organizations, and provide networking and educational opportunities to their members. Giving circles often form around a specific cause, issue or member demographic, for example, a women's foundation, a social justice funding circle or an international fund.

One of the more famous examples is ***Social Venture Partners (SVP)***, a membership organization that cultivates and connects individual philanthropists to collectively address specific needs in a community. SVP chapters exist in many of the larger cities in the U.S., and some international cities. The organization was started in Seattle.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

Philanthropic Advisors

A philanthropy advisor works with individuals and families to help identify giving priorities and passions, and to develop a plan and operational structure for effectively carrying out a giving plan now and in the future.

Several national firms offer this service, and most communities have independent advisors who bring a local expertise and experience. Personal advisors (wealth managers, CPAs, and estate planning attorneys) often know the philanthropic advising resources available in your community.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

Online Resources

There are also several websites that can help you find and evaluate organizations. Be cautious with the sites that offer ratings or evaluations, as it is difficult to apply the same rating formulas to different types of nonprofits.

The best way to learn about an organization, and to evaluate their effectiveness, is to meet with them and speak with their executive director, and/or program staff.

Guidestar

www.guidestar.org

National online resource for finding information about nonprofits.

Charity Navigator

www.charitynavigator.org

Provides free financial evaluations of charities nationwide.

GiveWell

www.givewell.org

A charity evaluator identifying the most “outstanding” charities.

