

Involving Kids in Giving

We recognize that many 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 find them helpful.



STEP ONE

Guiding principles

All philanthropy is deeply personal: how you choose to involve your kids will be a reflection of your family values. These general guidelines will help you establish an effective framework for future planning and activities with your kids.

- 1. Start early...**
- 2. Introducing philanthropy “mentors”** is a good idea at any age
- 3. Decide whether you are “informing” or “inviting”** your kids into a giving process
- 4. Help them find the resources they need** to be informed and feel empowered about money and giving
- 5. Give them autonomy** that builds confidence and allows them to take risks
- 6. Be clear** about expectations and ground rules
- 7. Tell stories and share experiences** – in all situations, kids want to know how you got to where you are



STEP TWO

Actions to take

For every age, there are age-appropriate activities and traditions that can help introduce philanthropy, educate, and sustain giving from year to year.

4-14

Childhood

- “Share/Save/Spend” boxes for allowance with clear guidelines and expectations communicated
- Identify and act on age-appropriate teaching moments and activities in your daily life related to empathy and gratitude
- Identify mentors in your family (aunts, uncles, older cousins) or outside (teachers, coaches, spiritual leaders, advisors) who can help guide your youngsters

14-22

Adolescence

- Support continued relationships with money and philanthropy mentors
- Create hands-on learning experiences by offering the opportunity to make an autonomous gift through the family’s giving vehicle or process, with clearly communicated guidelines and expectations

22-35

Odyssey

- Invite them to participate in family philanthropy
- Consider them peers (don’t seat them at the “kid’s table”)
- Provide and support opportunities for skill-building and individual development



STEP THREE

Read and learn

The following books are excellent resources for parents seeking to involve their kids in philanthropy, and cover a range of common issues and concerns.

**Silver Spoon Kids:
*How Successful
Parents Raise
Responsible Children***

Eileen and Jon Gallo

Relevant not only to high-net-worth families, but also to the millions of parents whose children are exposed to material abundance every day. Practical tips, real-life stories and highly effective advice, *Silver Spoon Kids* addresses the how and why of instilling in your family a healthy relationship with money.

**The Power of Half:
*One Family's Decision
to Stop Taking & Start
Giving Back***

Kevin and Hannah Salwen

This book is written by Kevin Salwen and his 14-year-old daughter Hannah. It describes how the Salwen family (Kevin, Joan, Hannah and Joseph) came to decide to sell their multi-million dollar home, down-grade to a smaller house, and donate half the proceeds of the house sale to charity. Establishing an egalitarian, one-person-one-vote, consensus-driven process, the parents and their two children overcame many challenges along the way, including decisions about the grant recipient, economic woes and keeping the project a secret for a period of time. According to Hannah, *The Power of Half* "is a relationships book, not really a giving book," realizing that while she made a small difference in the world, the greatest outcome was that her family grew more connected to each other. This is an inspiring read and reminds us that younger generations can provide important insights and provoke important change.

**Raising Financially
Fit Kids**

Joline Godfrey

Joline Godfrey, one of the country's leading experts on kids, parents, and money, gives parents the secrets and knowledge she has gleaned from a decade of working with kids on financial literacy and business. Designed for adults - parents, grandparents, mentors, advisors, and educators - concerned about raising children ages 5 to 25, *Raising Financially Fit Kids* is centered around a developmental map covering ten specific money skills each child can master by the age of 18 to become a financially secure adult. This map gives parents a step-by-step approach to helping their kids become habitual savers, smart money managers, and responsible decision makers.



STEP FOUR

Use online resources

Meaningful philanthropy is a process. Sound Philanthropy recommends the following websites to help you develop a strategy for involving kids.

Websites

Share Save Spend

www.sharesavespend.com

Offers ideas and solutions to families who want to develop a system for making balanced money decisions.

Resource Generation

www.resourcegeneration.org

A national organization working with young people with financial wealth who believe in social change.

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www.2164.net

Focused on multi-generational families who want to continue a legacy of family philanthropy, this site offers many resources, ideas and publications for talking about wealth and money.

New Global Citizens

www.newglobalcitizens.org

A movement built on the concept that the world lies in the hands of the young people who will inherit it and that an entire generation must be engaged to create sustainable change.



STEP FIVE

Get involved as a family

Here is a list of wonderful service projects and volunteer ideas for kids and families.

The Pajama Program

www.pajamaprogram.org

Through “Pajama Drives”, this program provides pajamas to children without permanent homes.

Do Something

www.dosomething.org

This is a site for teens and adolescents to inspire them to get involved in a way that is relevant to where they are in life.

Global Giving

www.globalgiving.com

This service connects individual donors with grassroots development projects around the world.

Donors Choose

www.donorschoose.org

This site connects individual donors with classrooms and students in need around the USA.

The Box Project

www.boxproject.org

A great way to sponsor a family living in severe poverty in rural America for the holidays.

