

FOUNDATIONSOURCE

A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK FOR GIVING:

Time, Talent, & Treasure



Generosity can take many different forms. As the nation's largest provider of support services to private foundations, every day we see inspiring examples of the variety and creativity that can make giving so impactful for the recipient—and rewarding for the giver.

The most common ways to give are in time, talent and treasure—an idea of Biblical origin reinforcing that **all individuals are capable of uniquely sharing with others and may do so in a variety of ways.** Over the years, this notion has been adopted in various ways and overtime has become a simple and effective framework for philanthropy. Let's explore it here.

The Gift of Time /

Essentially, the gift of time means just that: the volunteering of one's own time to help others. Such giving can vary widely depending on:

- 1 **The needs of specific populations, communities and charitable organizations.**
- &
- 2 **The preferences and interests of the giver.**

Giving time can be direct, hands-on service in which the giver personally interacts with those in need. Some examples include tutoring children at a homeless shelter; visiting nursing home residents; serving meals in a soup kitchen; or helping an understaffed charity organize a food drive. Giving time can also be indirect service such as stocking shelves at a food pantry, helping to staff a charity fundraiser, or distributing flyers and making telemarketing calls to support a charitable cause.

For some individuals and families, the giving of time might include their efforts to create and run a private foundation. The most elaborate of formal charitable giving vehicles, private foundations offer nearly endless philanthropic capabilities, from establishing awards and scholarship programs, to conducting and funding research, to granting to charities and people in need, to making program- and mission-related investments. Running such initiatives requires considerable time and dedication as well as financial resources.

The Gift of Talent /

A more unique and personal way for individuals to give is by sharing their talents, such as their intellectual capital, professional expertise, unique skills and hobbies, and even their social networks to bolster a charitable effort. **Some examples:**

- An investment advisor manages the endowment of a charity
- A doctor provides pro bono office hours at a local clinic
- A development professional provides fundraising assistance to a charity
- An avid tennis player offers instruction and coaching at a local Boys & Girls Club
- A graduate student conducts and monitors research for a nonprofit to help them understand the population they serve
- A celebrity writes a series of op-eds helping to bring attention to civil rights violations and encourages her large network to participate in a charity fundraiser

This type of philanthropy is highly valued because it provides a service or expertise that is often far more expensive or sophisticated than what the recipients (e.g., a charity or a family in need) could afford to acquire on their own.

The Gift of Treasure /

By and large, treasure is a euphemism for money or other items with intrinsic value. Cash is the most common “treasure” to give but charitable donations may also be made in the form of public and private securities, real estate, collectibles, royalty streams, and other assets.

Those with private foundations may donate in myriad other ways, such as through grants, program-related loans and loan guarantees, scholarships, and impact investments. Donor-advised funds (DAFs) are another popular way to give, allowing donors to quickly formalize their philanthropy, take an immediate tax deduction and make their donations anonymously.

Gifts of treasure has no set schedule; some donors choose to give on a regular basis, earmarking a certain dollar amount or percentage of their income for philanthropy. Others opt for greater flexibility, allowing themselves to give when a need arises or the spirit strikes. And others choose to incorporate their giving into an estate plan, leveraging charitable bequests and other planned giving vehicles to pass along their “treasure” to the intended recipients posthumously.

A life of giving offers many opportunities to change the world for the better. **As the examples below illustrate, each giver utilizes the Time, Talent, Treasure framework** in ways that are unique to them, their strengths and their interests.

GIVER	TIME	TALENT	TREASURE
Sandy, 43, tech professional	Participates in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Additionally, for a few months before the event, she spends time fundraising and having planning calls with her walk team.	Uses her experience from speaking at tech industry conferences to create fundraising videos to share with her personal network, filled with humor, graphics, pictures and anecdotes.	Donates vintage wines from her personal collection to various fundraising auctions for local schools. Arranged for a posthumous gift to a local private school as part of her estate plan.
Frank, 81, retired military veteran and business owner	Oversees the annual staff appreciation campaign at his assisted living facility and chairs the planning committee. Leads monthly planning meetings for 90 days prior to the campaign and weekly meetings during the 120 days of the campaign. Volunteers to install equipment for the Visiting Nurse Association.	As chair of the planning committee, he draws on his business experience in order to manage the overall project and interact with the facility’s finance office regarding the modeling of fundraising targets, the intake of funds, the calculation of staff bonuses and the distribution of checks.	Contributed a block of appreciated stock to a DAF and makes regular gifts to veterans’ organizations and his alma mater through the fund. Donating his extensive military awards and decorations to a museum.
Manuel, 57, financial services executive	Through a local church, he and his family spend one week every summer building and repairing homes in the community.	Worked with a charitable organization to build an executive education curriculum on financial management, accounting and audit for small business owners in his native country, El Salvador.	Established a private foundation with a mission to support economic revitalization in underserved regions of El Salvador. Contributes anonymously to additional charities (outside of his foundation’s mission) through a DAF.

For seasoned philanthropists and novice givers alike (including children), the framework of time, talent and treasure is a constructive way to determine how they can contribute to others—and society at large—throughout their lives in a way that makes sense for them.

Visit <https://www.learningtogive.org> for more ideas about giving.

ABOUT FOUNDATION SOURCE

Foundation Source **empowers people and companies to create a better world** through philanthropy. As the nation's largest provider of foundation management services, we're a trusted source for philanthropic expertise. We invest in industry-leading technology for private foundations and offer a configurable suite of administrative, compliance, tax and advisory solutions that meet you where you are in your philanthropic journey.

For more than two decades, we've worked with individuals, families, boards and professional advisors to preserve legacies and make giving easier. Today we are proud to support **more than 2,000 unique foundations** and have facilitated over **\$10 billion in charitable aid**. With a 98% retention rate, we are honored to have earned the trust and loyalty of our clients.

HAVE A QUESTION?

Call 800.839.0054 or send us an email at info@foundationsource.com.

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