



## Craft your own Generosity Plan!

Use this template to unleash your own change agency and those around you.

3 simple ways to use this framework:

- 1.) Any individual can use this to begin mapping and/or evaluating your philanthropy and activism.
- 2.) Executive Director's can use this with board members to help craft a compelling story as to why one may serve at your organization. This can support fundraising success, helping board members feel equipped with the right personal narrative to engage prospective donors for your mission.
- 3.) Fundraisers can use these as guiding questions to host their own "generosity salons" as a way support the philanthropic journey their donors are on.

Ready? Let's go!

Your Giving Tradition

1:) What do I remember about giving traditions in my family? Did my parents or

grandparents volunteer? Did we talk about those in need?

II:) Did my family encourage giving back? In what way? Through faith-based activities, school, community groups?

III:) What were the attitudes about giving back? Positive? Negative? Neither?

IV:) Who did I see volunteering or helping out? What was a time when I or someone I knew helped a person or animal in need? What feelings emerge when I describe the situation?

V:) Did I volunteer? If yes, what was the first time? Was I nudged to do it by a parent or teacher? How did I feel about it then? How do I feel about it now?

By looking back, you will reconnect with the things that you did which were most fulfilling. You will recapture your family's own giving traditions. Draw on your roots and re-visit this activity often. This practice will add continuity to your plan and support you in connect the past, present and future.

## Ok, next steps! Mapping...

The world around you

I:) Who is a person who inspires you? Who in the public eye do you look up to? Or perhaps a neighbor or co-worker? Whether you've been impressed by the efforts of someone you met in passing or the works of a great thought-leader, list the traits of that individual.

II:) Take those traits and choose the first three you want to cultivate within yourself. Think of simple action items to go with each. How can a Generosity Plan support you in living into those qualities?



For example:

I recently sat down with a new colleague who does a lot of work internationally. Upon hearing about the energy and momentum she is building out around the cause she cares about, she shared that she is also working with a local organization to build out the movement. I never thought that there may be ways to marry the work I've been doing abroad to the local food pantry or animal shelter. The commitment she has to changing both her global community and her local community not only impressed me but helped me to understand how I could integrate my endeavors as a change agent.

So, for action items I'll be:

- I:) Meeting with the executive director at our local food pantry to see how any of what we are doing abroad could be helpful in accomplishing local social change goals.
- II:) Secondly, I'll be introducing this new colleague to several friends who I know are also struggling to marry their international work with their local organization's more affectively.
- III:) Thirdly, I'm planning on keeping a journal more regularly so I can document stories from my time volunteering locally and internationally. In this way, I can draw upon similarities over time and find ways to share them with my local community.

Ok, giving history now known, mapping down, time to....

Build community

After doing these few initial pieces, begin to share your findings and use them to shape your conversations going forward. Key in on who is also on this journey and begin to have regular meet-ups, discussing the ways in which you plan to deepen your engagement to the cause you care about now that you have this new-found knowledge accessible to you.

And be realistic. Some people start Generosity groups because they feel overwhelmed and need to navigate their role in social change. Being in relationship to a group that has shared-values is extremely beneficial to the unleashing of your most generous self.

Literally, email two people right now. Make one phone call. Send a Facebook message. Block off an hour on your calendar next week to start sharing & collaborating.

Emailed two people. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

Made a phone call to \_\_\_\_\_.

Send a social media message to \_\_\_\_\_.

And, open the conversation with something a little like this.

“Becky!

“ I hope this finds you so well! Are you still serving on the board for the youth center? I’m working with the art association again this year and serving on the board of the local museum and it’s got me busy. And, quite frankly, exhausted! So, I’ve been thinking a lot lately about my role in social change and the causes I care about. Even though, I serve on a few boards, volunteer with various local organizations and donate, I still feel a bit lacking. I’m hoping to reevaluate and deeper my relationship to this work in the coming months. Would you be excited at the idea of coming to a group like this if I were to facilitate one for several people I know trapped in the same place? We could support each other in all our various roles next year and perhaps, have our best year ever as agents of change!”

This is your journey. Stay motivated and let’s start #raisingchange!



Tune into our webinar series at [www.raisingchange.com](http://www.raisingchange.com) for more support as you continue to map your own story, connect to the causes you care about and build a community of like-minded social changers.

