

**"Why give to charities?" Simply assuaging societal guilt?  
 Commitment to the social contract? Improving our own happiness  
 through reducing others' suffering?  
 One (perhaps the only) real motivation of corporate  
 philanthropy is a sort of advertising. Why does that appeal to the  
 public?**

**Countrywide and Charity Checks Giving Classroom Program  
 NPHS Philosophy, November 2005      Mrs. Thompson**

Unit: Ethics - Application: An exploration of the philosophical and ethical issues surrounding philanthropy.

Objectives :

- To read and understand philosophers' which relate to the practice of philanthropic donations
- To research various charitable organizations to understand their causes and mechanisms for distributing donations
- To formulate and write a personal philosophy of giving
- To develop a set of criteria for choosing a charity to supportTo write a business letter explaining the choice made to accompany the \$25 check provided by Countrywide and Charity Checks
- To assess the value of the project
- To support the NPHS *Expected Schoolwide Learning Results 6*

**California Content Standards:**

*English Language Arts :  
 of Informational Materials*

*Structural Features*

2.1 Analyze both the features and the rhetorical devices of different types of public documents (e.g., policy statements, speeches, debates, platforms) and the way in which authors use those features and devices      *Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text*

2.3 Verify and clarify facts presented in other types of expository texts by using a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents

2.5 Analyze an author's implicit and explicit philosophical assumptions and beliefs about a subject.

*Expository Critique*

2.6 Critique the power, validity, and truthfulness of arguments set forth in public documents; their appeal to both friendly and hostile audiences; and the extent to which the arguments anticipate and address reader concerns and counterclaims (e.g., appeal to reason, to authority, to pathos and emotion).

[Principles of American Democracy Grade 12](#)

**12.2 Students evaluate, take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.**

1. Discuss the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and how each is secured (e.g., freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, privacy).

**Charitable Literacy Program Objectives:**

To promote student knowledge of local/national/worldwide charities

☐ To encourage students to explore their own values through choosing a charity to receive their donation, and to experience the Joy of Giving

☐ To engage students in critical thinking and discussion

## Assignment:

- 1) After reading various philosophers' works relevant to the philosophical rationale for giving, write your own statement of beliefs that guide your giving.
- 2) Write and explain a set of criteria you have developed which are consistent with your philosophy and goals of philanthropic giving.
- 3) Go to: [www.charitychecks.us](http://www.charitychecks.us) or consult the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Guide. Select your worthy cause and decide on a charitable organization (there are many local, state, and national organizations, and many different organizations deal with the same worthy cause, e.g. cancer research)
- 4) Write and mail, with your Charity Check, a business letter to a selected charitable organization, including your rationale for selecting this organization.
- 5) Complete a reflection assessing the experience of participating in the Giving Classroom program.

### Some criteria to consider:

- A. Public Accountability: reports about well-defined goals, tax-exempt status, annual financial reports
- B. Use of Funds: percentage of total money spent on charity, percentage spent on fund raising, celebrities, office staff, administrative costs
- C. Solicitations and Information Material: ease of accessibility, accuracy
- D. Fund Raising Practices: respect of privacy, obnoxious persistence, confidentiality.
- E. Governance: Who are the board members? How are they elected/ appointed? For how long? Is there independent oversight, auditors?

*As citizens in a democratic republic, it is essential that we participate in our government by protecting our rights and meeting our responsibilities. The founding fathers called this the practice of republican virtues. One of these virtues is to provide for the common well-being.*

## Quotes About Giving

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we **give**." -- Winston Churchill

"Only great souls know the grandeur there is in **charity**." -- Jacques Bossuet (1627-1704)

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in **giving** creates love." -- Lao Tzu (604-531 B.C.)

"To laugh often and much. To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of one's critics and endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, **to leave the world a bit better**, whether by a healthy child, a redeemed social condition, or a job well done. To know even one other life has breathed easier because you lived: This is to have succeeded." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A bone to the dog is not **charity**. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog." -- Jack London

"Real generosity towards the future lies in **giving** all to the present." -- Albert Camus

"**Giving charity** does not deplete wealth." -- Punjabi proverb

"**Charity** is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined." -- Talmud

"One must be poor to know the luxury of **giving**!" -- George Eliot

"**Charity** and justice are worth a thousand ounces of gold." -- Chinese proverb

"**Charity** never humiliated him who profited from it, nor ever bound him by the chains of gratitude, since it was not to him but to God that the gift was made." -- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944)

"Governments can err, Presidents do make mistakes, but the immortal Dante tells us that divine justice weighs the sins of the cold-blooded and the sins of the warm-hearted in different scales. Better the occasional faults of a Government that lives in a spirit of **charity** than the constant omission of a Government frozen in the ice of its own indifference." -- Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

"**Charity** suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." -- Corinthians

"**Give** nobly to indigent merit, and do not refuse your charity even to those who have not merit but their misery." -- Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl Chesterfield (1694-1773)

"The presence of a noble nature, generous in its wishes, ardent in its **charity**, changes the lights for us: we begin to see things again in their larger, quieter masses, and to believe that we too can be seen and judged in the wholeness of our character." -- George Eliot

"Only add deeds to thy knowledge answerable; add faith; Add virtue, patience, temperance; add love, By name to come called **charity**, the soul of all the rest: then wilt thou not be loath to leave this Paradise; but shalt possess a paradise within thee, happier far." -- John Milton (1608-1674)

"Nobody is ever impoverished through the **giving of charity**." -- Maimonides

"So long as faith with freedom reigns, and loyal hope survives, and gracious **charity** remains to leaven lowly lives; While there is one untrodden tract for intellect or will, and men are free to think and act, life is worth living still." -- Alfred Austin (1835-1913)

"And now abideth faith, hope, **charity**, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." -- Corinthians

"**Charity** and personal force are the only investments worth anything." -- Walt Whitman

*Brought to you by Charity Checks, a nonprofit organization founded to encourage charitable giving. For more information on Charity Checks or about how to 'Give the Joy of Giving', contact Charity Checks at [giving@charitychecks.us](mailto:giving@charitychecks.us) or 800-854-5601.*