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Teen Philanthropy CAFÉ

SNACKABLE BITES ON GIVING, FOR TEENS

ON TODAY'S MENU: LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD



Welcome to the Café



WHY IS LEADERSHIP IMPORTANT IN PHILANTHROPY? HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME LEADERS? WHAT ACTION STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TOWARD LEADERSHIP TODAY?

These are big questions, and you've come to the right place for answers. In this issue, we'll explore leadership and its value in philanthropy. So pull up a seat, order up your salted caramel blended coffee, and we'll get you thinking and talking about leadership. Would you like whipped cream on that?



WHAT'S PHILANTHROPY, REALLY?

Philanthropy is a big word that means to *give*. It usually refers to giving money, and can also include giving other things (volunteering your time, for example, or sharing a special skill). The word itself is defined as a "love of humanity." It's a way to show kindness, to express what you care about in the world and the difference you want to make—and to do so with a gift of your money, time, or talent.

On Today's Menu **LEADERSHIP IN PHILANTHROPY**

OBJECTIVE:

Discuss the value of leadership and the traits of good leaders. Learn how philanthropists act as leaders. Create action steps for leading in your community.

As a philanthropist (or future philanthropist), you have the ability to make things happen. Positive things. Things that bring about change, both big and small. Foundations and philanthropists everywhere influence important issues by showing their leadership. What does this kind of leadership look like? It can take many forms.

- Funding research on a local environmental problem, and getting that research into the hands of important people who make decisions to work on solving the problem
- Rallying corporations, city government, and concerned citizens to save a struggling after-school youth program that you know is important.
- Supporting a coalition of agencies and nonprofits to reform a state's juvenile justice system because you believe in the innate potential of young people.
- Using social media to educate about—and advocate for—the causes and organizations you care about most.

Everyone has the power to lead, no matter your age, status, family role, or amount of money you have to give away. Leadership is something you can learn, and philanthropy is a great place to practice and grow it. This guide will help you explore different aspects of philanthropic leadership, so you can embrace your own inner and outer leader—now or when the time is right.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

This series introduces young people to strategic, thoughtful philanthropy, and inspires them toward giving with impact. Families and adults who work with youth can use these guides to facilitate peer discussion and fun activities around giving. This project is a partnership of Exponent Philanthropy and Youth Philanthropy Connect, with funding by the Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation.



GETTING THOUGHTFUL ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Unlike what you might think, most people aren't born leaders. Leadership is something you learn over time, and it can take you to surprising places.

So how *do* people become leaders? Here are some ways.

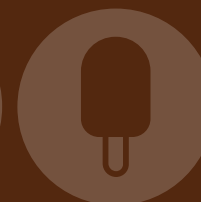
THE PATH TO LEADERSHIP OFTEN BEGINS WITH PASSION FOR AN ISSUE—sometimes in your own city or state or even internationally. What are the issues you care most about? Maybe it's bullying or kids dropping out of school, a nearby river that is polluted with trash, or the fact that there are no urban gardens in your neighborhood. It helps to choose one issue to start—the one you feel the most driven to change.

PEOPLE WHO BECOME LEADERS FEEL A SENSE OF URGENCY—a deep desire and impatience to change what isn't working, or create something that will. Often leaders ask endless questions to really understand and get to the heart of a problem. And, as philanthropists, they use their positions to open doors to people and information.

LEADERS FIND AND FOLLOW A PATH. Along the way, you might identify something that could be better, develop a vision for that change, and then do some leader-like activities, such as convening (gathering together) people in your community, speaking out about what you believe in, advocating for others who don't have a voice, or mobilizing your friends and peers to support the issue you care about.



HERE'S A TIP: Leadership isn't something that happens overnight; it often unfolds over time. It starts with the desire to make a change and grows when you take action to follow up on that desire. Anyone has the ability to lead—yes, even you!





USE THESE QUESTIONS TO REFLECT OR DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR PEERS.

WHAT ISSUE OR CHANGE DO YOU CARE MOST ABOUT? (PICK JUST ONE—WE KNOW IT'S HARD!)

WHAT SKILLS OR NEW LEARNING DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GAIN FROM SHOWING LEADERSHIP (E.G., PROBLEM-SOLVING, SELF-CONFIDENCE, DECISION-MAKING, EMPATHY)?

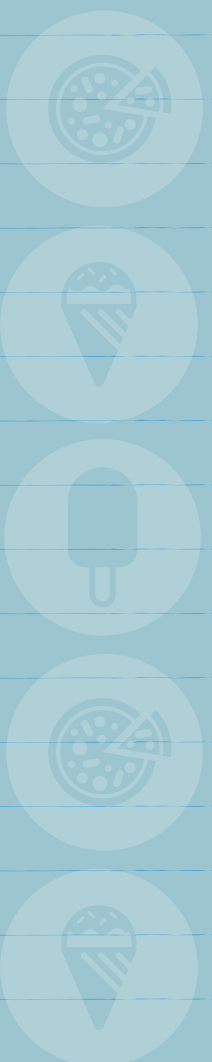
WHAT ACTION (IF ANY) HAVE YOU ALREADY TAKEN ON THIS ISSUE (E.G., RESEARCH, TALKING WITH OTHERS ABOUT IT, VOLUNTEERING, PARTICIPATING IN EVENTS)? IF YOU HAVEN'T YET TAKEN ACTION, HOW MIGHT YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU COULD DO?

WHAT FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE OR DAUNTING TO YOU ABOUT BECOMING A LEADER?

WHO IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW AND ADMIRE AS A LEADER? WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU THINK MAKES THIS PERSON A GOOD LEADER?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO TO FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES AS A LEADER (E.G., TALK TO OTHER LEADERS, TAKE SMALL STEPS, PRACTICE "BEING" A LEADER IN OTHER WAYS)?

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE PROSPECT OF LEADING THROUGH YOUR GIVING?



10 TRAITS OF A TERRIFIC LEADER

Being a leader does not necessarily mean telling others what to do. Many of the most influential leaders in history simply made powerful individual choices and became role models for others—sometimes influencing many people around the world.

There are many qualities that make someone a great leader. What are some of your favorites?

- 1 LEADERS FOLLOW THEIR PASSION:** They say, I want to make a difference!—and make their own decision to do so.
- 2 LEADERS HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** They say, Yes, I can!—even when others don't believe it's possible.
- 3 LEADERS LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE THEY WANT TO HELP:** They say, I want to learn from you; I care about what is needed.
- 4 LEADERS IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES AND OVERCOME ADVERSITY:** They say, It's not a problem; it's a challenge.
- 5 LEADERS KEEP GOING EVEN WHEN IT GETS TOUGH:** They say, Never give up. Never give up. Never give up.

6 LEADERS FOLLOW THROUGH ON COMMITMENT: They say, I do what I say I'm going to do to the best of my ability.

7 LEADERS TRUST THEIR INTUITION: They say, I may fail or make mistakes, but I always learn and move ahead.

8 CARE ABOUT EXCELLENCE: They say, I will always do my best.

9

(add your own)

10

(add your own)

*Some of the above adapted from
www.kidznpower.net.*

A FEW INSPIRING YOUTH LEADERS SOME FAMOUS, SOME NOT

Told over and over again that she would fail because of the homeless people she wanted to hire, **Veronika Scott** started the Empowerment Plan as a 20-year-old product design student in Detroit.

Mandi Simon founded Simon Says Give at age 8. The organization gives youth volunteers the opportunity to provide celebrations and gifts to children who would otherwise not receive them. Volunteers have the opportunity to use their special skills and talents to create fundraising events they can manage, learn, and grow from.

Alex Torpey, sworn in as the youngest mayor in New Jersey in 2011 at age 23, has become a leading voice in the government transparency and technology movement, as well as one of the nation's foremost nonpartisan advocates for millennial civic leadership. Alex's fiscal leadership and emphasis on economic development and operational efficiencies in South Orange have led to the town's three consecutive lowest tax increases in 15 years.

Eboo Patel is the founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core, a national organization building the interfaith movement on college campuses. He was named by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of America's rising young leaders and is driven by a personal belief in and passion for the crucial role of religious dialogue in civic progress.

Malala Yousafzai started the *Malala Fund* to bring awareness to the social and economic impact of girls' education and to empower girls to raise their voices, unlock their potential, and demand change—all after being shot on her school bus as a result of her outspoken views on life under the Taliban. For her efforts, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2014.

LEARNING TO LEAD

Are you ready to step into your leadership shoes? Here are some action steps to get you started.

- LEARN EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW.** People who become leaders want to change the status quo. They are hungry to find out everything they can about an issue they care about. They seek input in a variety of ways, reaching out to grantees, nonprofits, government agencies, and other citizens. Some leaders commission research; others learn by gathering people to discuss an important topic.
- BE AN EXCELLENT LISTENER.** Leaders are respectful, listen attentively, and keep confidences. They earn a reputation for integrity and trustworthiness. Trust, in turn, encourages others to be open and honest with them.

- GAIN INSIGHT AND PERSPECTIVE BASED ON WHAT YOU LEARN.** Leaders analyze the info they gather. They look for patterns and try to see things from different angles. They also try to see the bigger picture.
- DEVELOP A VISION FORWARD.** A vision for change emerges from learning about a problem or issue, understanding it as best you can, and analyzing different ways you might change things for the better.
- ACT ON YOUR VISION.** Take an action—a big or small step toward your vision. Some philanthropists act on their knowledge and insight, becoming catalysts for change.

LEADERSHIP IN PHILANTHROPY: WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Here are some examples of how foundations and individual philanthropists can lead in their communities:

- Gathering information and providing it to the right people to make changes**
Funders have a rare level of access to key leaders across all sectors.
- Supporting organizations that engage in advocacy and lobbying key issues**
The potential for systemic change is great, and we needn't shy away from politics.
- Providing a voice to those who are voiceless**
As funders, we can share what we've learned with others.
- Taking risks by supporting new, unknown, or cutting-edge organizations that show promise—and communicating that support to others**
We have the opportunity to take informed risks in the name of progress.
- Convening people to draw collective wisdom on an issue and generate solutions, and mobilizing diverse partners on an issue**
Funders are uniquely positioned to bring together stakeholders.

ACTIVITY ONE

INTERVIEW A PHILANTHROPIST

Here's a way to learn from philanthropists who are already leaders in their communities or funding areas. Find a staff or board member from a foundation or giving program (maybe it's even your own family foundation), and ask if you can interview him or her by phone or in person. Ask these questions, or any others that you're curious about.

- 1 What does leadership mean to you?
- 2 What are some ways you or your foundation have been a leader in your community or funding area? What were the results?
- 3 What was the easiest part about leading in this situation? What was most challenging?
- 4 What qualities do you think make a good leader?
- 5 What advice would you give someone who is new to leadership, or just exploring leadership in philanthropy?

ACTIVITY TWO

TAKE ACTION TODAY

- 1 What are some ways you can lead in the next one to three months? List a few possibilities, then circle the one you are most committed to, and get started!
- 2 What are three concrete steps you can take to move toward showing that leadership?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 3 In what time frame can you commit to taking these three steps?
- 4 What results would you like to achieve? How will you define success?
- 5 (After the fact...) Did you do it? How did it go?

IN SUMMARY:

To-Go Box

- Leaders aren't born—they learn how to lead over time.
- Anyone can be a leader, no matter your age, location, status, family role, or foundation size.
- Leadership often starts with passion for an issue and the desire to make a change.



WANT MORE?

If you're curious to learn more, check out these resources:



Youth Philanthropy Connect: youthphilanthropyconnect.org

Exponent Philanthropy: exponentphilanthropy.org

Youth Serve America: ysa.org

Inspiring Talks: tedxteen.com

Follow us on Twitter: [@exponentphil](https://twitter.com/exponentphil) and [@EngagingYouth](https://twitter.com/EngagingYouth)

BOOKS:

The Student Leader's Field Guide

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens

QUESTIONS?

Contact info@exponentphilanthropy.org

Thanks for coming by!
See you next time at
Teen Philanthropy Café.

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