San Antonio Area Foundation





FAMILY PHILANTHROPY toolkit

Make philanthropy a shared experience that sparks joy, conversation, and connection during the holiday season.

First,
Set the Stage

1. Take a moment to consider:
   - What are your reasons for getting your family involved?
   - What do you hope your donation(s) will accomplish?

2. Set a monetary goal or budget that you would like to allocate.

Then,
Find Your Favorites

1. Sit down for an intentional evening with your family.
2. Explore *Gifts that Give Back* together, making notes of organizations and causes that align with your family's philanthropic values.
3. Decide as a family where to allocate your donation(s).
4. Choose a giving option that works best for you and your family.

DEFINING WHAT MATTERS TOGETHER

Let these questions guide you as you reflect on your family's core philanthropic values.

Which experiences in our lives would we like to make available to others?

What is the best thing that someone has done for our family? Describe it with a story.

Consider the phrase: *Our world needs people who* _____. How would our family fill in this blank? How would it influence how people think about our charitable impact in the world?

Would we rather give to immediate needs or address long-term solutions?

How can we help others in non-monetary ways?

Why should we continue having future conversations about giving?

The San Antonio Area Foundation has staff members who are certified advisors in family philanthropy. To learn how an advisor can work with your family, email DonorServices@saafdn.org.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Choose a prompting question to spark meaningful, age-friendly discussions about generosity, gratitude, and community giving.

Younger Children (Ages 5-10):

- Who or what makes you feel grateful?
- Which group would you like to help? Why?
- How do you think their work helps our community?

Tweens and Teens (Ages 11-17):

- How would you describe your family's traditions around giving?
- Which nonprofit would you like to support and what problem is it trying to solve?
- Does anything about the organization inspire you?
- If you could volunteer for one organization, which would it be and why?

Adults and Multi-Generational:

- Who taught you about giving?
- What values are the most important when deciding where to give? How do these organizations' missions align with our family's values?
- What is the most meaningful gift you've ever made?
- Did different generations in our family choose different or the same favorites? Why or why not?
- How can we make this a family tradition?