

# My Personal Profile: Giving Back

**Objective:**

To learn about the concept of philanthropy and follow through on a small project to improve the community.

**Time:**

15-20 minutes for the initial discussion, time to carry out the project.

**Materials:**

Chalkboard or dry erase board (optional)

**Procedure:**

Ask the group if anyone has heard of the word “philanthropy” and if they know what it means. If necessary, explain that philanthropy means trying to help others or make the world better by giving money or time. Explain that people often think of rich people making big donations, but philanthropy can also mean volunteering time or raising or donating smaller amounts of money too. Introduce the idea that there are also many different kinds of charities in the world that work on almost any problem you could imagine. There are charities to help animals, the environment, schools, people who are homeless, to give food to people who need it, to fight diseases, etc.

Ask the group if they each had \$100 to donate to charities to help a cause, what kind of cause would they choose? Ask if anyone has ever volunteered to help for something- it could be at school, through a religious group like a church or synagogue, through a scout program, etc.

Challenge the group to come up with an idea of something they could do in a short period of time without needing money to help improve something. Some ideas might be writing cards or letters to those serving in the military or to the elderly in a nearby nursing home, a cleanup project in or near where your program is held, etc. First brainstorm a lot of ideas, and then narrow down the list to those that you could reasonably accomplish in a short period of time with the resources you have. Try to get the list down to two or three choices and then let the group vote.

Come up with a plan to execute the project the group selected and then carry out your project. If the students enjoy the process, consider making small projects like this a regular part of your program. (Perhaps monthly, or once a quarter?)