Virtual Pop-up Giving Circle Participant Workbook

A 90 Minute Giving Circle Experience

We are continuing to update this guide.

AMPLIFIER
Welcome to the Pop-up Giving Circle!

We’re so excited for you to dive in. Throughout this virtual experience, you will have rich, thought-provoking, values-driven conversations that will enhance your giving experience.

Here’s What You’re About to Do:

1. Consider Your Values
2. Read Organizational Profiles
3. Whittle Down Your Options
4. Pitch!
5. Vote & Make A Grant
6. Close & Debrief
That every human being is the image of God is Judaism’s most basic moral truth. We need to help all humans to discover this dimension of their own existence in whatever terms they may choose to articulate it.

Rabbi Arthur Green
American scholar of Jewish mysticism

It’s not rebels that make trouble, but trouble that makes rebels.

Ruth Messinger
Politician and Activist

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am for myself only, what am I? If not now... when?

Hillel the Elder
Sage and Scholar

If, however, there is a needy person among you... do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. Rather you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he needs.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

The experience of aliveness must never degenerate into a narcissistic celebration of self— for if it does; it dies. Aliveness is relational and communal, responsive to the reality and needs of other as well as to our own.

Parker Palmer
Author, Educator and Activist

Does this mean that we have godliness in us? Are we physical manifestations of God? What does that mean? But one thing we know it means is—if you meet a homeless person on the street and they may smell bad and they may not look like anyone else in your actual physical family right now—but the challenge is to see the image of God in this person.

Jill Jacobs
Rabbi and Activist
Inspiration
For Giving

Directions:
Read through the quotes.
Which quote inspires you to give?

In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty but all are responsible.

Abraham Joshua Heschel
Rabbi and Activist

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

Elie Wiesel
Writer, Activist, Holocaust Survivor

Because even though the commandments are placed upon each individual, all Jews are guarantors of one another, and they are all a single body, and it is like a guarantor who repays the debt of his friend.

Ritva
Commentary on, Rosh Hashanah 29a

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren’t pessimistic, you don’t understand data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren’t optimistic, you haven’t got a pulse. What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world.

Paul Hawken
American Environmentalist and Entrepreneur

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Lilla Watson
Indigenous Australian Activist and Academic
Jewish Philanthropic Values

Why I Give

- **Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World**
  **I Want To Create A More Just World**
  We are here to make a difference, to mend the fractures of the world, a day at a time, an act at a time, for as long as it takes to make it a place of justice and compassion where the lonely are not alone, the poor not without help; where the cry of the vulnerable is heeded and those who are wronged are heard.
  
  **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**
  *To Heal a Fractured World: the Ethics of Responsibility*

- **Gemilut Chasadim: Compassion**
  **I Give Because I Care About Others**
  Compassion is not just feeling with someone, but seeking to change the situation. Frequently people think compassion and love are merely sentimental. No! They are very demanding. If you are going to be compassionate, be prepared for action.
  
  **Desmond Tutu**
  *South African Theologian and Activist*

- **Shlemut: Completeness**
  **I Feel A Sense Of Fulfillment**
  “Give give” means you must give with at least two motivations. The first time you give is because it is a matter of law, a matter of obligation. The second time you give is a matter of heart and feeling.
  
  **Rabbi Harold M Schulweis**
  *To Heal a Fractured World: the Ethics of Responsibility*

- **Tzedakah: Righteous Giving**
  **Jewish Tradition Obligates Me To Help Others**
  “You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it”
  
  **Pirkei Avot**
  2:21

Directions:
Select 2 values that speak to you. Share your answer in a shared google doc or in the chat box.
Jewish Philanthropic Values

How I Give

**Locally**
A poor person who is a relative takes precedence over anyone else. The poor of one’s household take precedence over the poor of one’s city. The poor of one’s city take precedence over the poor of another city.

*Maimonides | Mishneh Torah, Laws Of Gifts To The Poor, 7:13*

**Globally**
When one is starving, the one who is starving takes precedence.

*Responsum of the Hatam Sofer | 2:231*

**To Jews Only**
It is no accident that the Jewish people call themselves “Am Yisrael”—“the people of Israel”— rather than “Dat Yisrael,” or “the religion of Israel.” A sense of peoplehood has long been the defining characteristic of the Jews.

*Rabbi Jill Jacobs*

**To Everyone**
Our rabbis have taught: We support the non-Jewish poor along with the poor of Israel, and visit the sick of the non-Jews, along with the sick of Israel, and bury the poor of the non-Jews, along with the dead of Israel, in the interests of peace.

*Babylonian Talmud | Gittin 61A*

**To Immediate Needs**
At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”

*Mother Teresa*

**To Long-term Change**
The proper way of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts.

*C.S. Lewis*

Directions: Place yourself on each of the following giving spectrums. Share your answer in a shared google doc or in the chat box.
Learning how to give

Even when you’re clear on your values, choosing where to give can be hard. There are over 1.5 million non-profits in the US alone, not including other venues for giving. We’re choosing between a small number of organizations today, which still requires comparing and understanding their work while checking our own biases to get a clear picture of where we want to donate. Here are a few guiding questions and tips for researching non-profits:

Have members of the group read the following out loud, and then ask for questions and additions:

1. **An organization’s website does not reflect the quality or importance of their work.**

   There are many projects and organizations that run lean operations, so they may focus their efforts on projects rather than their digital presence. Conversely, there are organizations out there that may have a very impressive online presence, but might not represent the values you want your giving to uphold. Alternatively, organizations working on important issues but don't have wide appeal, that are created by and for the most marginalized communities, or that are working on issues with little funding may not have the most polished websites or be widely linked online. This does not mean they are less deserving of funding.

2. Look for information about:

   - **Mission and vision statements.** Mission and vision statements are often the quickest way to understand the values of an organization. Mission and vision statements identify the problem an organization is working to solve; they’re the “why” behind the organization.
   
   - **Projects.** Look for the projects or program areas an organization works on and any information on how they do their work. Projects are the “how” of an organization. Some questions to consider when looking at an organization's projects are: who are the stakeholders being engaged? Is anyone missing? What is the scale of this projects? What are the strategies being used?
   
   - **Size of the organization.** Depending on how much money your pop-up giving circle is planning to distribute, the size of possible recipients can be a helpful determining factor. However, the “size” of an organization can measure many things! Here are some questions to consider: How many staff members does the organization have? What is their annual budget? What is the size of their reach/impact?

3. **Look beyond the organization’s website and social media.** What are other, reliable sources saying about what they do and how they do it? Are you familiar with their work? Does a Wikipedia page confirm what their website says? Does it add any important context? Are other organizations mentioning or linking to them?

4. **Consider what the organization needs.** Does it seem like this organization needs general operating support? Or is it encouraging donors to give restricted funds to specific projects? How can your money have the best impact on this organization, so that it can thrive, be more sustainable, and better reach its goals? Organizations need resources to run their programs, pay salaries, rent space, buy supplies, and more. Donating to the organization without restricting the use of funds, also called an unrestricted donation, is usually most helpful, especially in times of crisis.
### Pop-up Giving Circle Votes

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**Group’s Final Selection**

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**Pop-up Giving Circle | Participant Workbook**

8
**Giving Strategies**

**Why I Give**

Do you want to invest in new ideas or tested models?

![Innovative Strategy](image)

Do you want to give to a new endeavor or an established organization?

![Start-up](image)

Do you want to give to a specific project or support the organization’s general operations?

![Program Support](image)

Do you want to support an organization with a high-potential aspiring leader or an organization that has proven effective leadership?

![Emerging Leadership](image)

**Directions:** Place yourself on each of the following giving spectrums.
Building On Today’s Experience

If you’re thinking of starting or joining a giving circle after this experience—and we hope you are—you may be asking:

- How do I find proposals from organizations that I might care about?
- What information do I need to make decisions?
- How do I get my group started—and how do I keep it going?

We’re here to help!

We’re eager to hear from you and to help you build the giving circle of your dreams.

Visit www.AmplifierGiving.org or reach out to Hello@AmplifierGiving.org