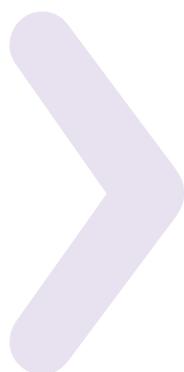

Participant Workbook

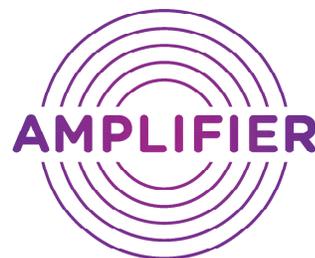
Giving Circle: Express

A 90 minute giving circle
experience



Brought to you by:

SLINGSHOT &



The Jewish Giving Circle Movement

If this first taste whets your appetite and makes you want to continue the giving circle experience, either by joining a circle or starting your own, great! (There's information to help you do that at the end of this packet.) But even if that doesn't happen, the giving circle express is a success if the conversations you have today are rich, thought-provoking and stay with you for a long time to come.

Here's what you're about to do:

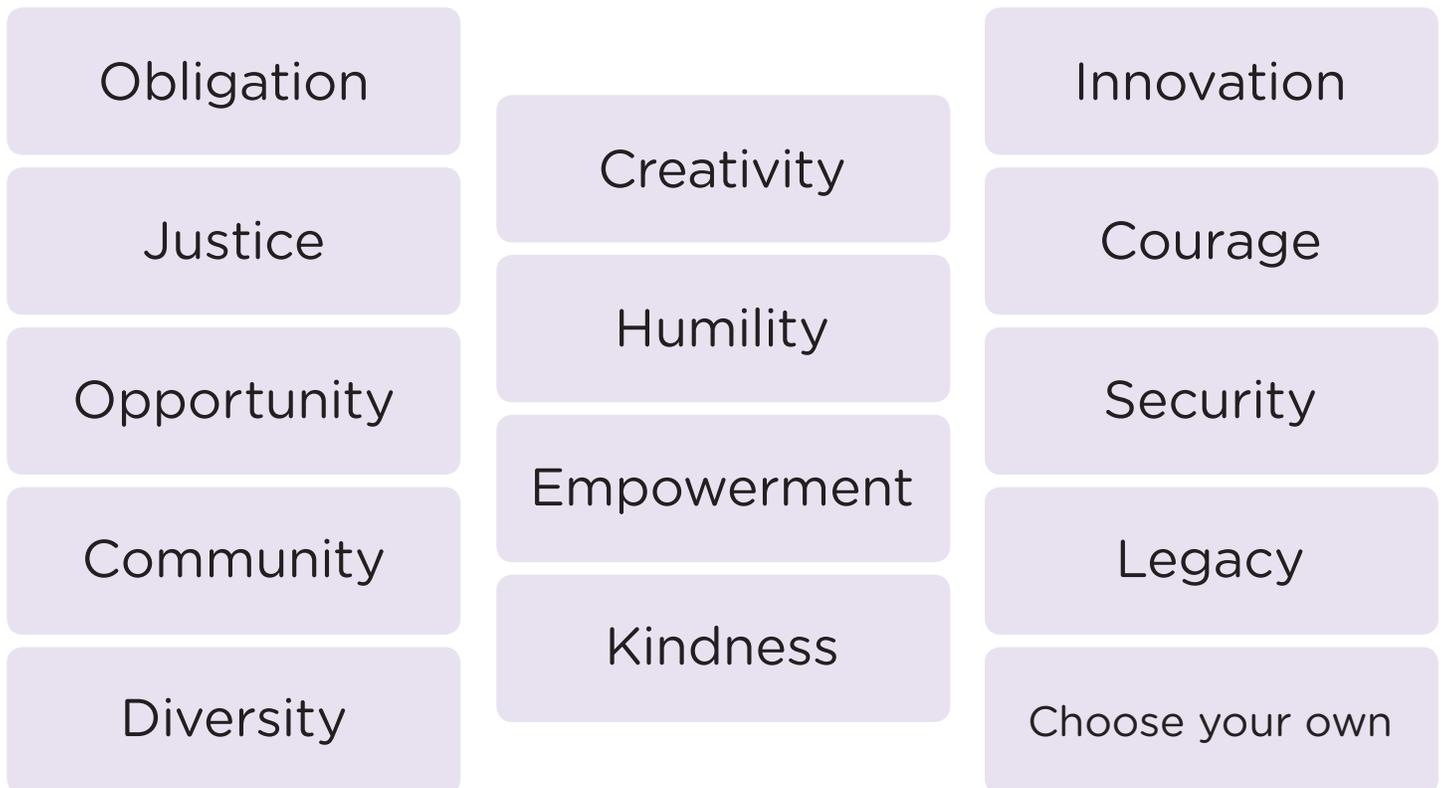


Please note: you will need at least one copy of the Slingshot guide (or a comparable guide to nonprofits) as a source for the organizational profiles. Slingshot is free, available either as a download or in hard copy at <http://www.slingshotfund.org/archive/>

Philanthropic Values

You can choose to define each value however you'd like to interpret them. For example, if you pick "community", that might mean you value giving to organizations that build community OR giving to an organization in your local community. Similarly, "empowerment" might mean that you value giving to causes that empowers a marginalized population OR that it's important that you personally feel empowered by your giving.

These are a few examples of values that can underlie your giving circle's work, but there are many more full resources out there if you have time for a more in-depth conversation. We recommend 21/64's Motivational Values and Picture Your Legacy Cards (available at 2164.net/store). How-to guides on facilitating these sets of cards are in Amplifier's Resource Library, and 21/64 will also offer a free 20 minute phone consultation on how to use their cards to any group leader who orders multiple decks of cards.



Jewish Values About *Tzedakah*

➤ What makes a particular value “Jewish”? Simply the way it is expressed and explained in a Jewish context. Jewish texts of all kinds offer a treasure trove of wisdom on an endless variety of issues, including a vast amount of ideas about *tzedakah* and giving. Jewish texts start with the Torah, then move onto the commentaries written to explain the Torah, then the commentaries written to explain those commentaries...and so on until the very conversation you will be having today. Jewish texts are an evolving, ongoing conversation across the generations, an essential element of a culture that welcomes and encourages questions and debate. As you dive into these texts taken from many different sources, we invite you to see

yourself as in dialogue with the generations of people who came before you who wrestled with making meaning from these words.

We’ve presented just nine values here, together with some of the most prominent ways they have been expressed in Jewish wisdom. If you want more, our partners at the Rose Community Foundation have created a deck of 18 Jewish Philanthropy Values cards that is available by contacting Sarah Indyk at sindyk@rcfdenver.org. Amplifier has also collected dozens of texts on different aspects of giving in *Selected Texts on Jewish Giving*, available for download from the Resource Library on www.AmplifierGiving.org.

Respect &
Partnership

Humility

Gratitude &
Kindness

Obligation &
Communal
Responsibility

Anonymity or
Acknowledgment

Empathy

Collective
Action

Generosity

Particularism or
Universalism

Respect & Partnership

One who mocks the poor insults his maker. [PROVERBS 17:5](#)

One who lends money is greater than one who performs charity, and one who forms a partnership is greater than all.

[BABYLONIAN TALMUD, SHABBAT 63A](#)

Humility

The value of money, and the material possessions it purchases, lies as a means rather than an end. The correct use of money is an opportunity, a challenge to make the right choices and emerge more holy.

[RAV TZADOK HAKOHANE, MACHSHAVOT CHARUTZ 7](#)

Gratitude & Kindness

Only one response can maintain us in our lives: gratefulness for witnessing the wonder, for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore and to fulfill. It is gratefulness which makes the soul great.

[RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL, MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD, P. 5](#)

If a poor person asks of you [to give him something], and you do not have anything in your possession to give to him, comfort him with words.

[MAIMONIDES, MISHNEH TORAH, LAWS OF GIFTS TO THE POOR, 10:5](#)

Obligation & Communal Responsibility

Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined. [BABYLONIAN TALMUD, BABA BATRA 9A](#)

It is not your obligation to finish the work; nor are you free to desist from it. [PIRKEI AVOT 2:16](#)

All Jews are responsible for one another.

[BABYLONIAN TALMUD SHAVUOT 39A](#)

Anonymity or Acknowledgment

One who gives charity in secret is greater than Moses.

[BABYLONIAN TALMUD, BABA BATRA 9A](#)

For when someone dedicates to Heaven that which belongs to him or builds something paying for it himself, who can prevent him having his name recorded since no one has a right to prevent another from making any stipulation he wishes when donating such gifts....the Torah itself... acknowledges and spreads abroad the reports of those who carry out a *mitzvah*.

[RESPONSA OF THE RASHBA, SOLOMON IBN ADRET, NO. 581](#)

Empathy

Hillel said, do not separate yourself from the community... and do not judge your fellow until you arrive at the same location.

[PIRKEI AVOT 2:4](#)

Collective Action

The sages said in the name of Rabbi Eleazar: What is the meaning of: "And he put on charity as a coat of mail" (Isaiah 59:17)? It tells us that, just as in a coat of mail each and every scale joins the other to form one large piece of armor, so every small coin given to charity combines with the rest to form a large sum. Hence, Rabbi Hanina said: The same lesson may be learned from "All of our acts of charity [together] are as a resplendent garment" (Isaiah 64:5). Just as in a garment each and every thread unites with the others to form a whole garment, so every small coin given to charity unites with the rest to form a large sum.

[BABYLONIAN TALMUD, BABA BATRA 9B](#)

Generosity

If a poor person comes and asks for what is sufficient to fill his needs and one does not have the means to provide it for him, one gives according to his means. How much is this? One-fifth of one's assets is the best possible way, but one-tenth is the usual way. Less than this is a bad sign, and never should one restrain himself from a third of a *shekel* [a very small sum] a year. Anyone who has not given at least this much has not fulfilled the *mitzvah* [commandment]. Even a poor person who lives on *tzedakah* is obligated to give *tzedakah* to another.

[MAIMONIDES, MISHNEH TORAH, GIFTS TO THE POOR, 7:5](#)

Particularism or Universalism

All Israel and all who are associated with them are like brothers, as it is said, "You are children of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 14:1). And if a brother does not show compassion for another brother, then who will have compassion for him? And to whom can the poor of Israel look? To the idolatrous nations that hate them and pursue them? They can only look to rely upon their brothers.

[MAIMONIDES, MISHNEH TORAH, LAWS OF GIFTS TO THE POOR, 10:2](#)

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](#)

Group values

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

ORGANIZATION NAME	IS THIS ORGANIZATION INTERESTING TO YOU PERSONALLY? SCALE OF 1-5 (5 IS THE HIGHEST)	HOW WELL DOES IT MATCH YOUR TEAM'S SHARED VALUES? SCALE OF 1-5 (5 IS THE HIGHEST)
1.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
3.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

NOTES:

Giving Circle Express Votes

FINALIST ORGANIZATION NAME	GROUP'S TALLY
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

GROUP'S FINAL
SELECTION:

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!



The Jewish Giving Circle Movement

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