



## my habits of giving

**purpose** • To explore the participants' financial priorities and their habits of financial giving to the community

**time** 45 minutes

**group size** 15 to 20 participants

**materials** • Flip chart  
• Markers  
• Worksheets: Budget worksheet; Allocation of Gift chart (pg.199 & 200).

### introduction

The trainer begins by taking on the role of the attorney for “Mabel Dear,” a long-lost great-aunt of the participants. Ms. Dear has left a bequest in her will to her nieces and nephews (the participants). The trainer says:

“Thank you for gathering to witness the reading of the will of Ms. Mabel Dear. I am (trainer’s name), her attorney. You are her last relatives, her great-nieces and -nephews, and although you did not know Mabel and were not even aware of her existence, she was proud of you and included you in her will. Let’s begin.”



#### LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MABEL LORRAINE DEAR:

I, Mabel Lorraine Dear, of All County, USA, being of sound mind, declare this to be my Last Will and Testament and revoke all prior wills and codicils heretofore made by me.

To each of my great nieces and nephews, I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$250,000 each. The remainder of my estate, valued at approximately \$5 million, I do give devise and bequeath to Building Better Communities (a fictitious organization).

#### **step one**

The trainer explains that every person in the room has received a check for \$250,000 from Great-Aunt Mabel's bequest and says:

"Today, you are going to decide how you will spend the money. The Allocation of Gift chart will give you some idea of things you might want to do and an approximate cost for that item. You may know of something you want that is not on the chart. If so, add it to the chart and estimate the dollar value."

Distribute the Allocation of Gift chart. The trainer explains that the participants may not go over the \$250,000 received, so they will have to pick and choose very carefully with their dollars. After the participants have had time to work on the Allocation of Gift chart, the trainer brings the participants back to the large group.

#### **step two**

Lead the group in discussion by asking the following questions:

- What were some of the items on the Allocation of Gift chart that caught your attention?
- What was it like to pay 20 percent of your inheritance right off the top to the IRS?
- How did you decide where your money would go?
- What other items did you select that were not listed on the Allocation of Gift chart?



- What did you find enjoyable in making your selections?
- What concerns did you have in making your selections?
- Which decisions required the least amount of consideration?
- Which decisions were most difficult?
- Which decisions do you value the most?

### step three

Hand out the Budget worksheets to each participant. Ask them to fill out the information with their income and estimates of what they spend each week on the different expense items. Encourage them to use the worksheets to think about their personal finances and how they would like to change or improve their financial habits.

**trainer note:** The Budget worksheets are for individual use. Participants do not need to share them.

### step four

Ask for volunteers to share how they are going to change their financial habits. Tell the group that whether they are giving \$5 or \$50, they are taking philanthropic action on behalf of their community.

**trainer note:** Remember, talking about finances can be very threatening. Make sure the participants know that discussing them is voluntary.



## reflection and discussion

Lead the group in discussion using the following questions:

- What did you find out that you didn't know before?
- What difference does this exercise make for you in your own personal giving?
- How does spending money reflect your values? How do you set an example with your money?
- What, if any, differences are there in how youth and adults spend money?
- What, if any, are the differences in how youth and adults approach giving?
- How does this activity affect your youth–adult partnership work in philanthropy?
- How might youth–adult teams be effective in philanthropic efforts?

**trainer note:** Take time to have the group discuss their answers to these questions. Help participants avoid making judgments about how or why youth or adults spend money or approach giving. Validate the reasons given and acknowledge the different circumstances that may affect individual answers.

# gift allocation

how will you use the money from your inheritance?

<b>Items</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Willing to Spend</b>
Inheritance tax	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Income tax	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Remainder of inheritance	\$170,000.00	\$170,000.00
College education	\$100,000.00	
Harley-Davidson Motorcycle	\$20,000.00	
Vacation to Hawaii for parents/guardians	\$7,500.00	
State-of-the-art computer and printer	\$4,000.00	
Newest "hot" car	\$30,000.00	
Shopping spree at the mall	\$5,000.00	
Cancer research	\$3,000.00	
Playground equipment at a daycare center	\$6,000.00	
Thanksgiving dinner at the homeless shelter for 50	\$1,250.00	
New stereo system and 50 CDs	\$1,250.00	
Big screen television	\$4,000.00	
Savings account	\$50,000.00	
Party for 50 friends	\$2,500.00	
Purchase equipment for disabled youth and adults	\$5,000.00	
Adventure trip	\$5,000.00	
Speedboat and jet ski	\$35,000.00	
Decorating two rooms at the Children's Hospital	\$5,00.00	
Other:		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$250,000.00</b>

gift allocation - a handout

# my budget

**Remember:**

Whether giving \$5 or \$50, you are taking philanthropic action on behalf of your community.

**You...**

are on your way to being a Philanthropist!

**Ask yourself these questions:**

Do I budget money each week (or month) for a contribution to my favorite cause or organization?

If not, how can I budget that in?

How do I need to eliminate or lessen the amount spent?

**Weekly Income:**

- Allowance \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Job \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Babysitting \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Dog walking \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Raking leaves \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Shoveling snow \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Weekly Expenses:**

- Food \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Gas \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entertainment \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Clothes \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- CDs/Software \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Savings Account \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions:**

- Worthy Causes \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Church \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**