



HOW TO START A FAMILY GIVING TRADITION

Recall some of your favorite family traditions. Maybe playing flag football at Thanksgiving or baking gingerbread cookies for neighbors at Christmas. Family traditions bring up sweet memories that stick with us forever. Often, the deepest family values develop from time-honored traditions – such as celebrating Jesus’ birth through advent activities.

Traditions bring people together, reinforce values, and celebrate what’s most important in our lives. Wouldn’t it be great to start a tradition of charitable giving in your family that answers God’s call to love and serve others? Kindness is contagious, and you have the power to spark a new culture of generosity, starting within your own family.



For example, what if we went beyond attending church as families to actively loving like Jesus as families – serving together as families? Can you imagine the impact that would have on our world as they witness multi-generational families helping those in need?

Not only does family giving help the recipients, but young givers learn to look outward and become more aware of others who need a hand. When children watch their parents and grandparents demonstrate generosity, they feel compelled to do the same. Children tangibly experience what it means to love like Christ when they see it modeled. Let’s show them the way.

Parents can seize teachable moments through real-life scenarios, and grandparents will leave a legacy of generosity, serving as wise role models for upcoming generations to follow. Multi-generational giving allows families to come together and open their hearts to help others.

HERE ARE 3 STEPS TO KICKSTART YOUR FAMILY GIVING TRADITION:



1. START A FAMILY DISCUSSION.

Make the experience a group effort by planning together. Developing a culture of generosity goes beyond giving money. Instead of asking family members to chip in on a group donation, take time to connect genuinely with the cause.

First, involve every generation in the discussion. Read stories to young children about those in need. Show them photos or videos of the people you will be helping. Let older children take responsibility for researching organizations. While they may not choose your top choice, hear them out and walk them through the giving process. Encourage your children to personally reach out to the organization to ask questions and express their interest.

Begin the discussion by asking your children these questions:

- What causes are important to you? What are you passionate about? What injustice keeps you up at night?
- Why do you care about a particular cause?
- How can we identify organizations working to address these issues?
- What makes an organization good? What are its strengths/weaknesses?
- Once we find our organization, how can we raise money to reach our giving goal?

Even the youngest givers can participate! Help your preschooler set up a lemonade or hot cocoa stand. During your fundraiser, display a photo of the person or organization who will benefit from the proceeds. Offer to match the amount they raise to incentivize them to make a bigger impact.

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Parents need to shepherd children on that journey and say, ‘Let me invest in you; you’re allowed to make mistakes – you may make a bad grant, but we’ll learn from it.’ Experience generosity with their kids. Ask good questions. Be willing to walk with them through the process of making grants. Experience plays such a big role in good grantmaking.

Alex Radler

Executive Director of 4africa,
Fort Worth, TX

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2. LET THEM MAKE MISTAKES.

As with most teaching opportunities, there’s a learning curve here. However, don’t we learn best from real-life experiences? As you guide your children through the process, don’t fret over mistakes; help them overcome challenges.

For example, maybe you came up short of your goal. Instead of throwing in the towel, ask your children what you could have done differently. Work together to revise the plan and brainstorm new ways to hit the target.

Or, maybe you found that the organization wasn’t the right fit for your family. Instead of seeing it as a mistake, use it as a chance to grow. Don’t be afraid to go back to the drawing board together – these life lessons build character and wisdom.

3. EXPERIENCE GENEROSITY TOGETHER.

Here’s the fun part! Spend quality time together as a family by participating in philanthropic activities. Show your children what authentic generosity looks like, and remind them that it’s not just about donations. Generosity begins in the heart and is at the core of Christ’s ministry.

Alex Radler, Executive Director of 4africa, shared his thoughts on generosity. Although he has pioneered a nonprofit for the last decade, he most admires his wife’s giving heart:

“I think the most authentic moment of generosity has been learning from the way my wife gives. It’s not always monetary. Her sacrifice of time and mental energy challenges me to [reflect on my giving]. Am I doing this well, or am I just cutting a check? Two weeks ago, a friend’s father passed away. I watched her stop and help with all the funeral planning. Trust, opportunity, and time – those are her elements of giving.”

To help your children empathetically connect with the recipients, try the following:

- 📁 Attend or host an event with the organization.
- 👉 Volunteer together with their organization of choice.
- 👉 If possible, visit those benefiting from the organization in-person. Let them see the impact of their giving firsthand.
- 📁 For remote organizations, explore mission trip opportunities together for eye-opening bonding experiences.
- 👉 Inquire with the organization about correspondence with beneficiaries (such as adding a heartfelt letter or email with the gift).

A TRADITION WORTH PASSING DOWN

Cultivating a culture of generosity in your family is not always easy – but it's worth it. Experience the eternal rewards of doing Kingdom work together. *Let the legacy begin with you.*

“When it comes to generosity and giving, expect it to be a challenge. My advice to parents who worry about their children’s limited interests in stewardship is to start now. Start showing and sharing your ‘why’ behind giving. At an early age, bring them to the causes you care about and expand their world view. Allow your children to experience generosity firsthand. Once you have aligned purpose and excitement centered around philanthropy, nothing compares to making a lasting impact together that will continue for generations to come.”

Alex Radler

Executive Director of 4africa, Fort Worth, TX

Finally, keep in mind that giving can and should be fun, engaging and exciting!

Learn more.

To learn more about ways 4africa is making a lasting impact, we encourage you to reach out, connect@4africa.com. We would love to guide you and your family through a transformative and insightful giving opportunity.

3 ways to give.

Online

4africa.com/donate

Use your mobile phone, tablet, or computer to visit our fast and secure donations portal to make your donation.

By phone

817.502.2009

We can answer any questions you might have and accept your choice of credit card over the phone.

By mail

4africa

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