



**P**hilanthropy is a wonderful way for families to share their history, values and passion for helping others. The East Bay Community Foundation can provide resources to help you and your family approach charitable giving in a way that is inclusive and impactful. By involving several generations in your philanthropic activity, you will not only cultivate a long-term commitment to giving back, but also have the opportunity to learn from and grow with each other.

### **Families Working Together:**

- Can be instrumental in creating lifelong philanthropists – your family traditions can encompass this generous spirit and pass it along.
- Gives you the chance to learn from the younger generation – their voices can provide valuable insight and creativity about the world they will inherit for themselves and their children.
- Creates a window for all family members to understand and become active in current community and global issues. Working together, your family can offer its support towards solutions for real-world needs.

### **The Tools to Understand:**

Whether you have a family fund with the East Bay Community Foundation or your own private foundation, it's important to orient your children, no matter their age. Give them the tools to

understand your philanthropic vehicle. Review the nuts and bolts whenever it seems appropriate. Encourage them to ask questions. Dialogue between family members will make the experience richer for all involved.

Conversations with your children about philanthropy can have a different focus at various stages of life as you make charitable giving a part of your family history and values.

### **For younger children:**

- Talk about what it means to help and share with others.
- Take advantage of site visits to programs supported by charitable giving. Real examples, such as arts centers, can help make philanthropy real and comprehensible.
- Consider giving a small allowance and discuss ways to think about and deal with money. Explain the concepts of saving, spending and giving.

### **For teenagers:**

- Encourage them to get involved with youth philanthropy organizations available in many areas. These organizations involve young people in researching philanthropic opportunities and awarding grants.

For further resources about specific aspects of family philanthropy, call our Development Office at 510/836.3223 to speak with one of our staff about your family's philanthropic plan.

- Discuss your family's grantmaking goals and consider your teens' input on where your charitable giving should be directed. Fostering their involvement will lead to thoughtful participation.
- Connect your family philanthropy with the idea of community service. Make the link and show the relationship between charitable behavior and financial support.
- Explain the technical details of how funds and grantmaking work and be open about the full financial details of your philanthropic activity. Help them understand the bigger picture.

**For young adults:**

- Consider having your young-adult sons and daughters take over some of your philanthropic funds or manage particular aspects of your charitable giving.
- Support them in talking with their own children about giving and extend your family's charitable dedication to the third generation.
- Encourage their participation as board members, trustees – or as advisors of your donor advised fund – and provide the chance for them to show leadership within your philanthropic strategy.

**A Challenge We Can Help You Meet**

Younger members of a family sometimes face challenges in their philanthropic participation. Sometimes, young people feel overwhelmed by the number of priorities in their lives, from school to work to friendships. As a result, they feel they don't have time to be part of a family philanthropy plan. Other challenges include learning how to maneuver within family dynamics and how to express the interests they have that diverge from traditional philanthropic causes.

The East Bay Community Foundation can help you craft a family philanthropy plan, defining roles that accommodate the schedules and needs of different family members. We can provide ideas and suggestions about how to create manageable and discrete opportunities for involvement at any age, as well as research on charitable possibilities incorporating different interests and goals.

