



The art of giving can be quite rewarding

4 tips to support your charitable efforts

Establish your capacity to donate, and decide how to give. Giving can include volunteering, financial contributions, and creating awareness in your social circle. Take a few moments to evaluate your situation. Then decide which form of giving best fits your lifestyle.

Choose an organization that's important to you. There are more than 1.5 million non-profit organizations in America alone! Some questions to focus your efforts are:

- What issues concern you the most?
- How do you want to help the next generation?
- What is your super-power skill, and how would you like to apply it?

Choose an organization that's been validated. With so many options out there, it's important to keep in mind that not all non-profits are created equal. To make sure that your energy and dollars are going to the right place, consider the following:

- **Look at their website.** Are there details about their programs, and how donations are allocated? Find their mission statement, and make sure it aligns with your goals.
- **Find out if the charity is registered.** Some states require charities to register with a state regulator. Visit the National Association of State Charity Officials website at NASCONet.org to make sure the charity exists.

Act. Once you've decided your capacity for giving, the next step is to connect with your organization of choice. In many cases, the contacts for volunteer coordination, marketing, and financial contributions can be found on an organization's website.



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