



Lesson 7: It's Great to Donate

Topic: Charitable Giving

About This Topic:

Helping those in need by making charitable giving part of a financial plan can give your child the “gift of giving.”

From the classroom:

What does the word “charity” mean? Charity is the act of giving help to people (and animals) in need. A charity is an organization that helps those in need or supports social causes.

Why is it important to help other people? Many people all over the world need help. Other people can make a difference in their lives by helping them. It is a kind thing to do that can make the world a better place.

How can you make giving a part of your budget? Plan for giving just like you would for saving and spending. Pay yourself first by saving money. Then pay your expenses. Plan ahead for how much you would like to give, and set aside that money for charity.

Words To Know:

Charity: The act of giving help or money to help people, animals, or communities in need; an organization that helps people, animals, or communities in need or supports social causes.

Donation: Something (including money, food, clothes, and toys) that you give to help people, animals, or communities in need or to a charity.

Resources:

Books:

- *Dog Days*, by David Lubar: The things Larry Haskins loves most are baseball and dogs. Along with playing ball, he spends his summer trying to save, and find homes for, stray dogs.
- *Marty McGuire Has Too Many Pets!*, by Kate Messner: Third-grader Marty McGuire comes up with two fundraising ideas, a talent show and pet-sitting business, so she can “adopt” chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary.
- *Sam and the Lucky Money*, by Karen Chinn: A boy named Sam receives money for Chinese New Year and has to decide how to spend it. He eventually decides to give the money to a homeless man.

Games and Online Resources:

- **KidsHealth Community Service: A Family's Guide to Getting Involved:** Read this article to learn more about why and how to get your family involved in volunteering.
<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/volunteer.html>
- **PBS Parents Charity Starts at Home:** Watch a video about a fun way one family raised money for charity. www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2013/11/teaching-kids-about-charity

Conversation Starters ... Ask Your Child:

- Have you ever received help from others? How did it make you feel?
- Have you ever helped someone? How did it make you feel?
- What is the best thing about helping others in need?
- What are some ways you can help others?
- If you were given \$10,000 to donate to charity, which organization(s) would you help, and why? What problems would you want to help fix? (For example: hunger, environment, rescuing animals, disease, homelessness)

Try This at ...

Home:

Donate Money: Choose a charity that your child wants to help. Have her or him save or earn money to donate to the charity. You may also want to raise money as a family. See the link above to watch the video *Charity Starts at Home* for one idea.

Donate Clothes and Toys: Instead of (or in addition to) donating money, have your child clean up his or her room to find old clothes and toys that he or she no longer uses to donate to children in need. Put all of the items in a box and take it to an organization, such as Goodwill or a local charity.

Volunteer: As a family, donate your time to help others. For example, help a neighbor shovel snow or visit the elderly at a nursing home. You may also want to volunteer at a local soup kitchen or join a community volunteer organization in your area.

Grocery store:

Help a Food Bank: Buy nonperishable items to donate to a local food bank. Give your child a \$5 or \$10 budget and have him or her help you choose the items. As you shop, ask your child to think about the best items to choose while staying within the budget. At holiday times, many grocery stores also have collection bins for local food bank donations. (As an alternate idea, start a neighborhood food drive. Visit your neighbors to collect nonperishable items to donate to other families in need.)