Four Traditions of American Giving – Poverty

WOMEN'S GIVING ALLIANCE
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Tradition	Giving as Relief	Giving as Improvement	Giving as Social Reform	Giving as Civic Engagement
Principle	Operates on Principle of Compassion	Operates on Principle of Progress	Operates on Principle of Justice	Operates on Principle of Participation
General Examples	• Food pantry • Red Cross • Religious services • Shelters	• Education & Mentoring • Job training • Building homes • Personal growth & spirituality • Purchasing books & computers	• Policy/Legal reform • Advocacy • Public education reform • Research • Campaigns (e.g., stop smoking)	• Community Development Corporations (CDC's) • Community Organizing • Giving Circles • Convening • Coalitions
Local/WGA Examples	• Ability Housing • Domestic Violence: Shelters • Family Promise • Feeding Northeast Florida • Helping WIN • Lutheran Social Services • Micah's Place • Volunteers in Medicine	• BEAM • Barnabas Center • Boys & Girls Clubs of Nassau Cty. • Catholic Charities • Center for Children's Rights • Delta Research • First Coast No More Homeless Pets • Gateway Community Services • Gen USA • Gen W • Girl's Inc. • Girl Scouts • Learn to Read • MaliVai Washington Kids • R.E.S.T.O.R.E. • Sanctuary on 8th • UF Health • St. Gerard Campus • Women's Center • Year Up	• Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center	• LISC • Leadership Jacksonville • Jacksonville Public Education Fund
Impulse	Alleviates Human Suffering	Maximizes Human Potential	Solves Social Problems	Builds Community
Philosophy	Feed the Hungry	Teach the Hungry to Fish	Attack Causes of Hunger	Why Does this Community Tolerate Hunger?
Advantages	• Draws attention to key social issues • Alleviates urgent/critical needs • Responds quickly to unforeseen events • Offers simple & accessible ways to relieve donors' urge to "do something"	• More lasting efforts • Builds people's assets to become more effective in directing their life & meeting their own needs • Encourages self-responsibility rather than dependency	• Deals with root causes of problems • Most lasting & comprehensive impact if successful • Highest leverage of philanthropic dollars • Innovative – experiments with alternative solutions to social problems	• Fosters collaboration through conferences, networking, & coalition-building • Empowers organization & communities • Builds trust • Builds more reflective & resourceful local communities • Recognizes local assets
Challenges	• Need is limitless • Fails to address root causes • Focuses on Symptoms • Typically short-lived • Can disempower people through dependence	• What if there is a fence around the pond? • Often benefits the well-situated or highly motivated • Receptivity to training varies • Must guard against the "we know better than you" attitude	• Who decides what must be reformed? • Highest risk of failure • Hard to identify & implement comprehensive solutions	• Does discourse lead to action? • Difficult to render into measurable outcomes • Takes time to create visible impact