Generations Together in Giving

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Last week the Foundation introduced a complimentary membership in the National Center for Family Philanthropy as a new benefit of Donor Advised Funds and promised more on a topic of particular interest – how it can help donors actively engage children and grandchildren in the past, present and future of their family’s giving traditions over time and in age-appropriate ways.

According to a recent NCFP study, three in five family foundations try to include their children in their work and more than 40 percent will add young people on their boards within four years. Today many families give, and teach their offspring about giving, through Donor Advised Funds. However you choose to give, the NCFP’s Generations Together program offers the practical tools so many donors seek to help bring kids and grandkids into the fold.

Generations Together takes all the expertise the NCFP staff has gathered over decades working with hundreds of family foundations and giving families and translates it into simple steps anyone can take to involve young people in learning about their own family’s story, understanding their values and traditions, and developing the abilities needed to become effective philanthropists.

How? It is an easy to use online trove of proven exercises, videos, articles, examples, protocols, projects, games and more -- ranging from five minutes of fun to involved projects -- so that each family can choose the topics and activities that are right for its members’ individual and quickly changing needs. The offerings include hundreds of enjoyable activities to take young people from basics to leadership, organized into five orderly modules: Getting to Know the Family, Getting to Know Philanthropy, Personal Development, Beyond the Basics and Supporting Next Gen Involvement.

From imparting an understanding of the origins of family wealth and why giving is a priority for its members, to discovering personal charitable passions and developing financial literacy and essential skills, to navigating family dynamics and leadership roles, all are included in this new toolkit now provided through our DAFs. We especially like the NCFP’s advice on connecting youth to the local community and charities through your community foundation, and are happy to preview the website with interested families!

“We would like to give a very sincere ‘Thank You’ to the Ocean Reef Community for your generous donation to the KLS STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) class. The students in grades K-5 have not had exposure to this level of technology in the past, but are now learning how to build, program, and modify robots to perform tasks with scenarios that are linked to real world situations. They are using the robots for problem solving in a cooperative learning environment, not only teaching them more about the technology in the world, but providing them the opportunity to grow in a collaborative and challenging setting. Now, all students in the classroom are able to experience this advanced caliber of learning on a regular basis, and they are loving it!” - Jose Zepeda, STEM Teacher

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