

Designing Your Philanthropy Collage: Religious Perspective

Proverbs 3:28

Do not tell your neighbor, go and come back, and tomorrow I will give.

Acts 4:32

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

The Holy Quran 3:92

"You cannot attain to righteousness unless you spend (in charity) out of what you love."

The Holy Quran 2:274]

"Those who spend their money in the night and in the day, secretly and openly, they will have their reward with their Lord."

The Holy Quran 2:271

"If you disclose your (philanthropy) it is well; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, that is better for you."

Processing Questions:

1. What did you learn about philanthropy?
2. What are some ways the faith community serves the world?
3. What makes service an essential part of our faith?
4. What are some needs of others in our faith community that we could help address?
5. Which of the actions or traits on the collage represent you – who you are or actions you have taken?
6. What are some of the words and pictures that appear more often in the collages?
7. Ask members to identify someone they know who is a philanthropist. Ask each member to share one trait that describes the person they know and to share what that person does that makes them a philanthropist.

Judeo-Christian Perspective:

The Acts passage points out that because of the early faith communities' devotion to one another no one was needy. Could that statement be made of our faith community—that we're so devoted to one another that no one is in need? Explain.

Muslim Perspective:

1. The first passage from the Qur'an emphasizes the giving of something that is cherished by the giver. What benefit other than the obvious value of an item is achieved by the receiver, and what benefit to the giver is realized if he gives something he "loves" or values greatly?
2. Should the philanthropist expect anything in return for his or her giving?
3. Why is philanthropy sometimes best done anonymously, or in secret?
4. When is it good to disclose giving?

