

# Historical Figures in Philanthropy

## Jane Addams

Adapted from a paper by Ann Kitchen, Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

### Biographical Highlights

Jane Addams was an advocate of immigrants, the poor, women, and peace. Author of numerous articles and books, she founded the first settlement house in the United States. Her best known book, *Twenty Years at Hull House*, was about the time she spent at the settlement house. She led campaigns against child labor, worked hard for suffrage (women's right to vote), and promoted reform on city, state, and national levels.

The well-known image of Jane Addams is of a "gentle angel of mercy," which is accurate but incomplete. Addams was also a "shrewd businesswoman, the expert fund raiser" and a skilled agent of publicity. It was the culmination of these skills that drove Hull House to success and Addams to celebrity status. (Davis 109) She was head of the Woman's Peace Party, The National Conference of Charities and Corrections, and the Women's League of International League for Peace and Freedom. In 1931, she shared the Nobel Prize for Peace with Nicholas Murray Butler.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Addams founded the first settlement house in the United States, Hull House, in 1889. It was located in Chicago. A settlement house is located in a deprived area of a city, and is a center of social work. The house began in a rundown mansion and had a dual purpose: to provide an outlet for the talent and energy of young college graduates and to help individuals trapped by poverty. The educated individuals who lived there expected to learn as well as to give. The concept was to place the educated next to the poor, so that both groups could learn from one another, along with social workers living at Hull House.

Addams was also considered an advocate to many causes. She was considered a social reformer and an advocate of organized labor, striving to eliminate poverty rather than to comfort the poor. She was an advocate of educational initiatives as well as an advocate for peace. Addams also worked for the cause of suffrage (women's rights). Unlike some other suffragists, she did not view women as being superior to men, rather she saw women as being different and that women had special responsibilities: to build strong relationships with



their families, have the right to an education, and take on a creative role outside the home. As a result of her involvement in Chicago's politics, she became increasingly aware of the corruption in government, and Addams felt that women could help lead a moral reform movement if they were able to vote.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=71>

### Susan B. Anthony

Adapted from a paper by Aaron Klein Haight, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

#### Biographical Highlights

Susan B. Anthony was a leader who is best remembered for her advocacy for women's voting rights and as a founder of the Suffrage movement. She was also active in the Temperance and Abolitionist movements. She was a woman ahead of her time who believed that women deserved every right that was given to male citizens, including the right to an education. According to Nora Bredes, director of the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership, "Anthony believed that suffrage and education were 'where the focus of women's organizing energies should be' and that if those two areas were successful women would have the tools needed for everything else."<sup>1</sup>

#### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

The women's rights movement would not have existed without Susan B. Anthony. She dedicated her entire life to the fight. In a letter to Stanton, Anthony wrote, "It is fifty-one years since we first met and we have been busy through every one of them, stirring up the world to reorganize the rights of women...We little dreamed when we began this contest...that half a century later we would be compelled to leave the finish of the battle to another generation of women. But our hearts are filled with joy to know that they enter upon this task equipped with a college education, with business experience, with the freely admitted right to speak in public—all of which were denied to women fifty years ago."<sup>2</sup>

Her many writings including over fifty years of letters written to Stanton, countless speeches, and published articles can be found in the six volumes of *The Papers of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton*.



Anthony had many ties to the philanthropic sector. First was her involvement in many organizations such as Daughters of Temperance, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and her work with abolition, temperance, and other political issues. She was very active in raising money to support these causes and also made generous donations to the University of Rochester and other institutions. Today, the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership provides scholarships and educational opportunities for women.

1. Ingalls, Zoe. "A University Salutes a Little-known Triumph of Susan B. Anthony," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 47 (2000): 6, A72.

2. Kowalski, Kathiann M. "Cady Stanton and Anthony: Friends Fighting for the Cause," *Cobblestone* 21 (2000): 3, 14-17.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=72>

### Anthony Benezet

Adapted from a paper by Kristen Adkins, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

The Notion entertained by some,  
that the Blacks are inferior to the Whites in their capacities,  
is a vulgar prejudice.

-Anthony Benezet

### Biographical Highlights

Anthony Benezet (1713 - 1784), educator, writer, and philanthropist, dedicated his life to exposing the injustices facing the American people in early American society, most specifically those endured by African Americans, women, and Native Americans. As an educator and a writer, Benezet is considered a pioneer in the world of philanthropy and charity, even though he did not have much more money than the people he helped. He believed in righting the wrongs of society through exposing injustices and taking action against the mistreatment of individuals.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

After Benezet's death and the death of his wife, Joyce, his estate continued to endow the school for African Americans that he had established in the last years of his life. The Overseers of the Friends' Public Schools became the trustees of the estate, and Quakers have



continued to manage the association ever since. In 1917, the school, renamed in 1795 as the School for Black People and their Descendants (also known as the Raspberry Street School), merged with the Joseph Sturge Mission School (founded 1865) and the Western District Colored School (founded 1848). After the merger, the school was renamed The Benezet House Association and became instrumental in assisting and educating Philadelphia's poor African Americans and immigrants.

Benezet also founded an association, Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage. Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Benjamin Rush reconstituted this association after Benezet's death as the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery.

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### **James Earl Carter, Jr. (Jimmy Carter)**

Adapted from a paper by Lisa A. Bancuk, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

#### **Biographical Highlights**

Jimmy Carter was the 39th President of the United States, serving in office from 1977-1981. Carter was involved with human rights and social justice issues and continues his efforts in these areas today.

During his time in office, Carter had a number of achievements at home. He established a national policy to deal with energy shortages, combated unemployment, created the Department of Education, and strengthened the Social Security system. He expanded the national park system by adding Alaskan lands. Carter also appointed a record number of minorities and women to government jobs.

Though Carter had some serious setbacks in the area of foreign policy, he had a number of successes in the area of foreign affairs. In 1978, the Camp David agreement created genial relations between Egypt and Israel. Though relations with the Soviet Union were tense, Carter negotiated the SALT II nuclear limitation treaty. Additionally, he secured ratification of the Panama Canal treaties and established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

#### **Ties to the Philanthropic Sector**



After Jimmy Carter left office, he continued to promote peace, human rights and opportunities for the underprivileged. In 1982, he founded the Carter Center in Atlanta, which has “initiated projects in more than 65 countries to resolve conflicts, prevent human rights abuses, build democracy, improve health, and revitalize urban areas.”<sup>1</sup>

Jimmy Carter has been deeply involved with Habitat for Humanity since 1984, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. The organization is responsible for building over 100,000 homes worldwide. Volunteers work with future homeowners to build or renovate homes; the homes are then sold to partner families at no profit with an interest-free mortgage (15-20 year).

Through Habitat for Humanity, Carter sponsors the Jimmy Carter Work Project, an annual event in which volunteers donate a week of their time to build homes and raise awareness of the critical need for affordable housing. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter devote time at various locations, working worldwide. They work with volunteers to raise funds, publicize Habitat for Humanity and recruit volunteers.

1. The White House. *Jimmy Carter, Thirty-Ninth President, 1977-1981* [online]. Available:[www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/jc39.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/jc39.html). (30 March 2001).

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=82>

## César Chávez

Adapted from a paper by Amelia E. Clark, Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

### Biographical Highlights

César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927. Chávez dedicated his life to serving humanity by improving the working conditions of migrant farm workers in America and advancing the ideals of equality and civil rights for everyone. In 1962, Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), later renamed the United Farm Workers (UFW). The UFW became the voice of migrant farm workers throughout the United States.

Like his contemporary, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Chávez used nonviolent reform, such as pickets, boycotts and peaceful demonstrations. The UFW and Chávez had many accomplishments—establishing minimum wage standards, wage contracts, safer working



conditions, child labor reform, and advancement in civil rights for Chicanos and other farm workers.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

In 1962, Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), later renamed United Farm Workers (UFW). By founding UFW, Chávez furthered his dedication to promote the racial equality and dignity of farm workers. The workers had few resources to help them stand up for their civil rights and especially feared risking the loss of their jobs. Though farm work was poorly paid and dangerous to the health, in many migrant families, men, women and children all worked in the fields to ensure the survival of the family.

Chávez spent his entire life working to right injustices that plagued his people and countless others. The battle he began continues today through the United Farm Workers Union, which protects and advocates for the rights of farm workers. In addition, Chávez's example and the accomplishments of UFW inspired the formation of many Chicano and Latino organizations and the use of organized boycotts and peaceful protest to address subsequent social issues.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=84>

### Dorothea Dix

Adapted from a paper by LaDonna Ghareeb, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

"If I am cold, they are cold;  
if I am weary, they are distressed;  
if I am alone, they are abandoned."

- Dorothea Dix

### Biographical Highlights

Dorothea Dix was a social reformer dedicated to changing conditions for people who could not help themselves<sup>3/4</sup>the mentally ill and the imprisoned. Not only a crusader, she was also a teacher, author, lobbyist, and superintendent of nurses during the Civil War. Through her tireless work of over two decades, Dix instituted changes in the treatment and care of the mentally ill and improved prison conditions. Today, the results of her efforts can still be seen throughout the United States, Canada, and many European countries.



## Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Dorothea Dix was the pioneering force in the movement to reform the treatment of the mentally ill in America. The example of her advocacy and activism changed the evolution of the government and nonprofit sectors, in relation to policies and care of the mentally afflicted. Countless hospitals (both for-profit and nonprofit) and support groups arose from Dix's recognition and enlightenment of the public about the treatment and needs of the mentally ill. She used her political ties, her reputation, her financial means, and whatever resources that came her way to further the movement.

She modeled the movement after the examples and principles of her contemporaries in England, and her fellow American activists followed her lead. In support of the mentally ill, Dix instigated extensive legislative change and institutional practices across the United States. In addition, she affected the construction of hospitals and the training of staff of institutions.

She did not receive great wealth for these commitments, but used the resources and political connections available to her to make a difference for those in need. In fact, she spent the last fifty years of her life living, often, in quarters of the hospitals she founded.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=89>

## Diana, Princess of Wales

Adapted from a paper by Sue Nieboer, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

### Biographical Highlights

Diana, Princess of Wales, was born Diana Spencer in 1961. In 1981, she married Prince Charles of Wales, heir to the throne of England, and became her Royal Highness Princess Diana. She won the hearts of the people immediately with her innocent appearance and her ability to give to others. Her marriage, which began like a fairytale, became the interest of tabloid journalism, covering conflicts with her mother-in-law, the Queen of England, and her tumultuous marriage, which ended in divorce in 1996. She then became Diana, Princess of Wales. A year later, she met a tragic death in an automobile accident in Paris after a high-speed chase with paparazzi (photographers). After her death, she was hailed as the "people's princess" by British Prime Minister Tony Blair because of her tireless efforts on behalf of the sick and poor.



## Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Diana's philanthropic legacy has inspired many to give to charitable causes. Not only did she raise millions of dollars for many causes benefiting the sick and the poor, but she also gave of her time and herself. Many examples exist of Diana's personal visits to homeless shelters and leprosy wards, of her physically touching those with HIV/AIDS or sitting with children dying of cancer. She was known to take her sons with her to poverty-stricken areas of South London to meet homeless people camped in cardboard shelters. She ministered to the children and adult victims of unretrieved landmines.

Britain's royal family is known for its philanthropic endeavors. It has long been an expectation that the rich give to the poor, and so it is with the royal family. Diana transformed a family obligation into a personal calling. "Her overall effect on charity is probably more significant than any other person's in the 20th century," says Stephen Lee, director of Britain's Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers.<sup>1</sup>

At the time of her death Princess Diana was the official patron of many noteworthy charities, from the National AIDS Trust (an umbrella group for a wide array of AIDS causes in the United Kingdom) and The Leprosy Mission to the English National Ballet. She was also closely associated with the British Red Cross Anti-Personnel Land Mines Campaign. After her death, the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund was established. There are many fundraising efforts contributing to this fund, and many foundations and charities receive gifts from the fund.

1. Kim Hubbard et al. "Special Report: Princess Diana, 1961-1997: Touched by Diana," Time.com (2 February 1998). [cited 26 April 2003]. Available from <http://www.time.com/time/daily/special/diana/readingroom/sept9798/9.html> .

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=88>

## Fredrick Douglass

Adapted from a paper by Brandon Talbot, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

## Biographical Highlights





Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was influential in the promotion of social justice in the United States. An African American born during slavery, he advocated for the abolition of slavery and elimination of discrimination. Douglass serves as an important figure in American history because he supported key philanthropic responsibilities such as reciprocity, mutual aid, and commitment to an ideal.<sup>1</sup>

Born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, his mother was a slave and his father was rumored to be their white slave master. Being treated as property, his master moved him twenty-five miles away from his mother and siblings and he was raised under the care of his grandmother on a tobacco and wheat plantation. By experiencing first-hand the deplorable treatment of slaves, and seeing free African Americans inhabiting larger cities, Douglass concluded that slavery was an unacceptable practice.

When Douglass was eight years old his master's wife taught him to read and write. These skills sparked his commitment to education. As a result, he taught other African American slaves how to read and write so they might raise themselves from their plight.

In 1838, Douglass escaped slavery and moved to Massachusetts, eventually fleeing to England. There he earned money as a lecturer and met people sympathetic to the anti-slavery movement. He bought his freedom with \$711 given to him by a group of English benefactors and returned to America to help other slaves free themselves from their oppressed conditions.<sup>2</sup>

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Frederick Douglass was dedicated to advocacy for the improvement of discriminated groups. He understood first-hand what it was like to be discriminated against and he championed other social justice issues such as women's rights. In this sense, his commitment to the ideal of equality for all classes of people encouraged the creation of several laws that improved the social condition of all Americans.

By escaping slavery and returning to America to help the class of people to which he once belonged, Douglass symbolizes the philanthropic spirit. He gave his time, energy, and service to help other African Americans obtain increased freedom.

1. Blassingame, John. *Frederick Douglass: The Clarion Voice*. N.p.: Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1976.

2. Martin, Mike W. *Virtuous Giving: Philanthropy, Voluntary Service, and Caring*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-253-33677—5.



## Marian Wright Edelman

Adapted from a paper by Michele Rodger Spencer  
Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

### Biographical Highlights

Marian Wright Edelman is a lawyer, social activist, and premier children's rights advocate in the United States. As a daughter of devout Baptist parents (her father was a minister), Marian grew up with the ethic of service to others as central to one's life. During the Civil Rights movement, she aided African Americans in the south as they asserted their right to vote, and helped bring visibility to the poor living conditions and starvation facing southern black children and families. In 1973, she founded the Children's Defense Fund as the leading advocate for children's and families' rights. Though a number of other nonprofit organizations address similar issues, CDF and Edelman continue to affect public policy by bringing focus to disparities in health care, education, and other social services, particularly, for minority children and families. Marian Wright Edelman is known for her effectiveness and tenacity as a lobbyist, consistent passion for children and justice, and use of statistics and images to demonstrate the extent of a crisis.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Throughout her lifetime, Marian Wright Edelman has made, and continues to make, considerable contributions to the philanthropic sector through her work as an activist and advocate. From her life-risking beginnings as a lawyer in the South, working to address the plight of struggling African Americans and to aid them as they asserted their right to vote, Edelman aided in the civil rights successes of the NAACP. Yet, the contribution for which she is best known is the founding of the Children's Defense Fund, a private, nonprofit organization. It is "the strongest advocate and most persistent clearinghouse for information on children in the United States".<sup>1</sup> It receives funding only from foundations, corporate grants and individual donations to support its multi-million dollar annual budget. The Children's Defense Fund has more than 100 employees with varied specialties related to the organization's mission. From its inception, Edelman has guided the Fund to become the premier children's advocacy organization, with countless other nonprofits and grassroots programs across the country benefiting from the public policy accomplishments of CDF.



1. Leeman, Richard W., ed. *African-American Orators: a bio-critical sourcebook*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1996, 110-119. ISBN 0313290148.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=94>

## Josephine Shaw Lowell

Adapted from a paper by Lisa A. Bancuk, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

### Biographical Highlights

Josephine Shaw Lowell was an American social reformer, advocate, and charity worker in the late 1800s. She believed in being a charity worker and that charity should change the recipients, as well as relieve their suffering. “Lowell became active in many social causes, and helped to promote the reorganization of public and private charities of the U.S.”<sup>1</sup> Lowell felt that social change depended on “the friendly visitor who offered advice on child rearing, and homemaking along with assessment, and recommendations for aid and the model for the social worker”.<sup>2</sup> Her work helped to provide women’s correctional facilities and institutions for the mentally ill. She helped to improve efficiency in social welfare services and reduced the rate at which children were placed in poorhouses.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

A chronology of important highlights of Josephine Shaw Lowell’s life shows a significant contribution to society and a passion for helping the disenfranchised. Foremost, Lowell helped to found a number of organizations. These include: the New York Charity Organization (which worked with charitable agencies), the first custodial asylum for women in the U.S., the House of Refuge for Women (later known as the State Training School for Girls), Consumers’ League of New York, the Woman’s Municipal League, and the Civil Service Reform Association of New York State. Among Lowell’s other accomplishments: she was the first woman appointed commissioner of the New York Charities Commission; she wrote numerous papers on the theories supporting relief work, including Public Relief and Private Charity; and she served as vice president of the Anti-Imperialist League of New York (1901-1905).

Josephine Shaw Lowell was very influential as a philanthropist. She worked as a volunteer and founded many charitable organizations. She was also involved in the anti-imperialist and labor movements.

Lowell also wrote many reports on welfare and on the theoretical foundations of relief work, especially the influential Public Relief and Private Charity.



1. Beatty, Barbara. Biographical Dictionary of Social Welfare in America. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press Inc., 1986

2. The Social Welfare History Project. Josephine Shaw

Lowell <http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/people/lowell-josephine-shaw-3/>

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=110>

## Mother Teresa

Adapted from a paper by Libby Laux, Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

### Biographical Highlights

Mother Teresa was a humanitarian. She was a tiny woman of just 4 feet 11 inches and less than 100 pounds. Yet, she spent many years lifting and carrying those who were dying or sick. Mother Teresa chose to "serve the poorest of the poor and to live among them and like them," seeing beauty in every human being. She, along with others of the Missionaries of Charity, strove to make the lives and deaths of those around them more peaceful and full of love by washing, feeding and caring for anyone who needed aid.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Mother Teresa was an excellent example of what it means to live philanthropically. She performed extraordinary charitable work, and without any material rewards for herself. She made everyone she came in contact with feel special and beautiful, as if they were the only person in the world. She remembered a dying man being cared for at Nirmal Hriday who said, "I have lived like an animal on the street, but I am going to die like an angel, loved and cared for." She never turned anyone away who needed help.

Many people and leaders throughout the world recognized Mother Teresa's extraordinary philanthropic works. In 1971, she was awarded the first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize. Then in 1972, the Indian government gave Mother Teresa an award for International Understanding called the Jawaharlal Nehru Award.

Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Mother Teresa requested that instead of a banquet in her honor, which is the usual practice for Nobel Prize recipients, that she be given the money so she could use it for the work of the poor. When she graciously accepted the reward, she said, "I choose the poverty of our poor people. But I am grateful to receive (the Nobel) in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind,



of the lepers, of all those who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."

Mother Teresa became so influential that in 1982, during the siege of Beirut, she successfully persuaded the Israeli and Palestinian guerrillas to cease-fire so she could rescue 37 children from a front-line hospital.

Mother Teresa suffered many health problems, suffering her first heart attack in 1983, although she continued comforting the suffering and dying and working with the poor all over the world. Finally, in 1997, Mother Teresa decided to step down as the head of the Missionaries of Charity and later died on the evening of Friday, September 5, 1997.

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### Mary Eliza Church Terrell

Adapted from a paper by Nina Gondola, Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

#### Biographical Highlights

Mary Eliza Church Terrell was a social activist and early feminist who advocated for women's suffrage and civil rights for African Americans. Born to free parents who had been newly emancipated from slavery, she became a formidable educator, lecturer and author. As an active member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, she was very involved in striving for women's rights, of particular concern to her were the rights of black women. She stated this concern at a women's suffrage convention in 1890: "A white woman has only one handicap to overcome—a great one, true, her sex. A colored woman faces two—her sex and her race. A colored man has only one—that of race."

Terrell was a prolific writer whose opinion pieces appeared in several black newspapers and periodicals as well as the prominent white news media. She specifically addressed racial problems and issues such as Jim Crow laws, lynching of African Americans, and the convict lease system. In her book, *A Colored Woman in a White World*, Terrell tells her own life story in vivid detail.

#### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Mary Church Terrell spent her adult life working to advance the rights of, primarily, African American women. She was personally touched by the injustice of being black when a



childhood friend of hers was lynched. But the injustice was a catalyst for a lifetime of advocacy, writing, public speaking, teaching, lobbying, and political activism. So, through personal example and individual participation as a citizen, she fought the status quo and raised public awareness in the United States and Europe of America's racial and gender inequality.

To aid in her social activism, Terrell helped to found a number of important nonprofit organizations. Foremost among these was the National Association of Colored Women which gave a voice to African American women. She aided in the work of the NAACP by starting a Washington D.C. branch and by serving as its vice-president. She was also an active member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=127>

### Sojourner Truth

Adapted from a paper by Amelia E. Clark, Graduate Student, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

#### Biographical Highlights

Isabella Baumfree was born around 1797 in upstate New York. When slavery was abolished in New York State in 1827 Isabella was set free. Her newfound freedom was to be a life of service that she dedicated to her people and to the rights of women. Later in life, Isabella would change her name to Sojourner Truth, a fitting name for an ex-slave who crusaded for abolition and women's rights. While her petition for abolition was an ongoing battle, Truth is probably best known for her speech entitled "Ain't I a Woman?" delivered at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Ohio. An excerpt from the speech:

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

#### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Sojourner Truth dedicated her entire life to the overall betterment of society through the abolition of slavery, and to women's rights issues. Though she was already free, she was a tireless volunteer who used the resources of her mind and spirit, as well as her immense



rhetorical abilities, to further these causes. She was also an active fundraiser. When the Civil War began, Truth preached and lectured in order to raise money for Union soldiers. Besides raising the money to purchase supplies, she personally distributed the goods to soldiers. Truth also assisted escaped and freed slaves who came to the north to find work, food, and shelter.

View paper in full at <http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=129>

## Harriet Tubman

Adapted from a paper by Paula B. Nelson, Graduate Student, Grand Valley State University

### Biographical Highlights

Harriet Tubman was a second-generation slave who dedicated her life to fulfilling her cry to the slaveholders, "Let my people go!" She escaped from slavery, herself, yet returned to the South nineteen times to free over three hundred slaves. She had an unflappable faith in God and believed slavery to be an evil created by man. Called "the Moses of her people," Tubman never lost a slave or failed on her missions. She was a scout and a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War and her information was responsible for the destruction of enormous amounts of Confederate resources. After the war, Tubman continued to battle for social reforms and justice for her people.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Harriet Tubman spent her entire life working to correct the injustices done against her people. She worked to bring slaves to freedom and to advance the rights of all African-Americans. Through her travels Harriet developed a wide network of friends whom she enlisted for her numerous social causes. Harriet always asked for help when necessary, from people who had the resources she needed.

Some were well-known philanthropists (like William Seward and Gerritt Smith) and others were poor individuals, but most contributed to the full extent of their abilities. This was grass-roots philanthropy. Specifically, the Underground Railroad was the prominent philanthropic organization Tubman risked her life and well-being to assist. The Railroad existed through the efforts of volunteers and donations of money, food, clothing, shelter, and other resources from courageous people from the South to the North.

Through donations and the help of the American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Harriet began the Home for Aged and Indigent Colored People in 1896. She managed this home until her death in 1913.



## Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Adapted from a paper by Caroline B. Altman, Graduate Student,  
Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

### Biographical Highlights

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931) was born into slavery in the South near the end of the Civil War. Growing up, she saw the disparity in the rights of African Americans and whites and became an insightful and frequent writer on the topic, particularly on the horrifying practice of lynching. Hine (1993) writes: "Wells-Barnett was a reformer and one of the first Black leaders to link the oppression and exploitation of African Americans and white economic opportunity" (1246).<sup>1</sup> Even though she faced great tragedy, adversity, controversies and threats, she wrote and agitated for the betterment of her race with incredible energy and persistence. To this end, Ida helped to found a number of organizations, including the National Association of Colored Women and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the country's oldest civil rights organization. Wells-Barnett continued her "crusade for justice" up until her death, at age sixty-nine.

### Ties to the Philanthropic Sector

Ida B. Wells-Barnett's "passion for justice" made her a tireless crusader for the rights of African Americans and women. She was a social reformer, a suffragist, a civil rights activist, and a philanthropist. Her writings, regardless of the risk to her safety and life, raised public awareness and involvement to address a number of social ills resulting in the oppression or murder of African Americans. Her service of time through the creation of myriad clubs and organizations improved the lives of her people. Her work in Chicago, in her final years, focused on providing for the needs of the city's African American population. Modeled after Jane Addams' Settlement House efforts, Wells created urban houses for black men, where they could live safely and have access to recreational amusements while they searched for employment.

1. Hine, Darlene Clark, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, and Elsa B. Brown, eds. *Black Women in America*. Vol. 2. Brooklyn, New York: Carlson Publishing, 1993, 1242-46. (This edition out-of-print; current edition ISBN: 0253327741.)

