

# Jim McHale Profile

"*Servant Leadership in Michigan Philanthropy*" Quote by James McHale, Battle Creek, Michigan

"I would take you to Battle Creek, Michigan, in about 1845 when this thing came through Battle Creek called the Underground Railroad.... The Underground Railroad was not made possible by funding from the United Way. It did not receive a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. It was created by individuals who understood their role in trying to help other individuals seek the freedom that they so desperately deserved.... I think this is a state -- and every community throughout the state probably has some other interesting, unique stories about that -- that didn't require funding from a corporation, or a foundation, or United Way. People just understood that this is how we treat one another, this is how we take care of one another, and now it's our responsibility as citizens of this state to make sure that we give other people the understanding of that type of ethic and servant leadership."

Read James McHale's profile and listen to excerpts from his interview on the Our State of Generosity website. Answer the following questions.

Questions:

1. What is "servant leadership"?
2. What are some significant events in Mr. McHale's career that demonstrated servant leadership?
3. In what way does he show humility?
4. How does Mr. McHale distinguish the work of volunteers from the work of foundations and corporations?
5. Does he think that one type of philanthropy is more meaningful?
6. How does the way our ancestors treated each other influence the behavior of people in business and nonprofits today?
7. Whose responsibility is it to carry on that ethic of caring for others? List some people and organizations who can take on that responsibility and how.

