

Quotations on themes of Philanthropy

"If the society today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." ~Barbara Jordan

"Action springs not from thought, but from readiness for responsibility." ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The humblest individual exerts some influence, either for good or evil, upon others." ~Henry Ward Beecher

"I am only one, But still I am one. I cannot do everything, But still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." ~Helen Keller

"The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people." ~Cesar Chavez

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now—when?" ~Rabbi Hillel

"My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition." ~Indira Gandhi

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the creative light of altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's persistent and most urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant." ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

"...who dies rich dies disgraced." ~Andrew Carnegie

"We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves." ~Chief Seattle

"Ask not what your country can do for you... Ask what you can do for your country." ~John F. Kennedy

"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank

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"A nation is formed by the willingness of each of us to share in the responsibility for upholding the common good." ~Barbara Jordan

"But history will judge you, and as the years pass, you will ultimately judge yourself, in the extent to which you have used your gifts and talents to lighten and enrich the lives of your fellow men. In your hands lies the future of your world and the fulfillment of the best qualities of your own spirit." ~Robert F. Kennedy

"At the heart of all that civilization has meant and developed is 'community' – the mutually cooperative and voluntary venture of man to assume a semblance of responsibility for his brother." ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Neither democracy nor effective representation is possible until each participant in the group...devotes a measurable part of his life to furthering its existence." ~Lewis Mumford

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but the one thing I know; the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve..." ~Albert Schweitzer

"Remember that everyone's life is measured by the power that individual has to make the world better—this is all life is." ~Booker T. Washington

*"Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honor steady to a common end and prefer the interest of mankind to any narrow interest of their own."
~Woodrow Wilson*

"Every heart is the other heart. Every soul is the other soul. Every face is the other face. The individual is the one illusion." ~Marguerite Young

"People have to feel needed. Frequently, we just offer a job and 'perks.' We don't always offer people a purpose. When people feel there is a purpose and that they're needed, there's not much else to do except let them do the work." ~Maya Angelou

"Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood. But everyone has something to give." ~Barbara Bush

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." ~Barbara Bush

"Not he who has much is rich, but he who gives much." ~Erich Fromm

"If every American donated five hours a week, it would equal the labor of 20 million full-time volunteers." ~Whoopi Goldberg

"As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled." ~Victor Hugo

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." ~I Corinthians 13:1-3

"The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." ~William James

"If there is one word that describes our form of society in America, it may be the word voluntary." ~Lyndon Baines Johnson

"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, quality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up." ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog." ~Jack London

"Charity sees the need, not the cause." ~German Proverb

"Never think you need to apologize for asking someone to give to a worthy cause, any more than as though you were giving him or her an opportunity to participate in a high-grade investment. The duty of giving is as much his or hers as is the duty of asking yours." ~John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

"Help your brother's boat across and your own will reach the shore." ~Hindu Proverb

"In about the same degree that you are helpful, you will be happy." ~Karl Reiland

"Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good action; try to use ordinary situations." ~Sam Rayburn

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to sleep with a mosquito." ~Anita Roddick

"No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." ~George Washington Carver

"We must serve consciously as caring role models, emphasizing the ethic of service, not consumption." ~Marian Wright Edelman