

Exercise 5.2
How Much Should You Give?

10 minutes

Part A

First consider this question:

Given our enormous privilege—whether courage capital, wisdom capital, creative capital, or financial capital—what more can we do, while staying in balance ourselves, for humanity or our communities now? What are you uniquely called to do on the question of how much and how best to give? (Most people give from their income, but some more wealthy donors give from their assets as well. When planning for giving after death or when making multiyear gifts, people often give some from assets and some from income. For more on giving from assets see “Giving Principal” later in this chapter and Exercise 13.1 in Chapter Thirteen.) Write your thoughts here:

Part B

In thinking about what percentage of income you want to give away, you might start by looking at the following chart. Find your income level, then look across the row until you see an amount that feels right to you as an amount to give away. You may need to check your capacity with your family or advisor, but for now just identify what you’d like to be giving. Now look at the top of the chart to see what percentage that is. Do both the amount and the percentage feel right to you? If not, where is the disparity? If you have given in the past, what percentage of your income does your past giving represent? How does it compare with the amount or percentage you chose on the chart?

If your income*	is and you want to give					
	2%	3%	5%	10%	15%	20%
\$30,000	600	900	1,500	3,000	4,500	6,000
\$40,000	800	1,200	2,000	4,000	6,000	8,000
\$50,000	1,000	1,500	2,500	5,000	7,500	10,000
\$60,000	1,200	1,800	3,000	6,000	9,000	12,000
\$75,000	1,500	2,250	3,750	7,500	11,250	15,000
\$100,000	2,000	3,000	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000
\$150,000	3,000	4,500	7,500	15,000	22,500	30,000
\$200,000	4,000	6,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	40,000
\$250,000	5,000	7,500	12,500	25,000	37,000	50,000

*You may choose your level of giving based on your pretax or post-tax figures.

Inspired Philanthropy:
Your Step by Step Guide to Creating a Giving Plan and Leaving a Legacy
www.inspiredphilanthropy.com

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How Much Should You Give?, Cont'd

Note how much you want to give here:

This year I want to give \$ _____ , which represents _____ percent of my income.

Next year I want to give \$ _____ , which represents _____ percent of my income.