

Exercise 3.3
Reflections

A. Characteristics of the Groups You Supported

Thinking about the characteristics of the groups you've donated money to in the past two years, answer the following questions.

1. Within each set of characteristics, was your giving focused on certain categories or varied? Were these choices intentional? If they were, what were the reasons behind your choices?

2. What do you see as the pros and cons of the pattern your giving has taken within each category? (For instance, your dollars may have great impact on small, start-up organizations, but start-ups sometimes fail. Giving locally offers you personal connection, yet some solutions require a regional, national, or global approach.)

3. Looking at the characteristics of the groups you've funded, is there anything different you would like to do next year? What? Why?

B. Your Relationship with Groups You Supported

Look again at the groups you listed in Exercise 3.2 and take stock of the relationships you have with them.

1. With what number of organizations are you a
 Recipient of the organization's services
 Past recipient of the organization's services
 Volunteer
 Member
 Board member
 Staff member
 Other: _____

Exercise 3.3
Reflections, Cont'd

2. With how many do you
 Know people in the organization
 Know people who have been affected or helped personally by this or similar organizations
 Know other donors

3. With how many did you learn about them through
 Direct mail
 Family, friends, social club, association, or work colleagues
 Local public or community foundation or workplace giving
 Media or the Internet
 Other: _____

4. With how many do you
 Want your donation to be completely anonymous
 Want your donation held in confidence (only one or two people in the recipient organization know)
 Don't care whether your donation is known
 Want people in the community to know you made a donation

5. With how many did you stay informed by
 Reading newsletters, e-news, Web sites, or annual reports
 Attending events
 Meeting one-on-one with staff or board
 Other: _____