

Charity vs. Social Change Philanthropy

CHARITY	SOCIAL CHANGE PHILANTHROPY
Short-term fixes	Long-term solutions
Social services	Social change
Reactive	Proactive
Individual responses	Collective, organized responses
Dependent communities	Empowered, independent communities

Examples of Change vs. Charity

(used with permission from *Robin Hood Was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change* by Chuck Collins and Pam Rogers with Joan P. Garner © 2000 The Haymarket People's Fund)

Charity	Change
Focus on individual needs.	Focus on institutions and policies.
Give to the fine arts museum.	Give to an organization working to ensure National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding for the arts.
Donate a dollar a day to help one child in Guatemala.	Donate to development projects focusing on building up the local economy in Guatemala.
Support shelters for battered women.	Support conflict resolution and anti-violence programs for junior high and high school students to prevent battering.
Fund Toys for Tots during the holidays.	Fund organizing for a livable wage so parents can afford to buy toys for their kids.
Give to a telethon for services for people with disabilities.	Give to a group of disabled people and their allies pushing their elected officials to make public buildings accessible.
Donate to cancer drug research.	Donate to a group organizing to clean up the toxins in our environment and to pressure polluters.
Send money to a shelter for homeless families.	Send money to a housing coalition working for affordable housing.
Give to a senior citizen center.	Give to a senior action council working for home health aid coverage to enable older people to remain independent.
Fund a scholarship for one high school student to attend college.	Fund a student association organizing to ensure that higher education is affordable for everyone.
Donate food to a food pantry to provide supplemental food for lower-income working families.	Donate to a group lobbying to raise the minimum wage so people can afford to purchase the food they need.
<i>Charity is not a bad thing. But social change can ultimately eradicate the need for most charity.</i>	