

Philanthropy derives from Ancient Greek, meaning "**to love people**". Philanthropy is the act of donating money, goods, services, time and/or effort to support a socially beneficial cause, with a defined objective and with no financial or material reward to the donor. In a more general sense, philanthropy may encompass any altruistic activity intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. One who practices philanthropy may be called a *philanthropist*. Although such individuals are often rich, people may perform philanthropic acts without possessing great wealth. Philanthropy is a major source of income for fine arts and performing arts, religious, and humanitarian causes, as well as educational institutions. Philanthropy is facilitated by development professionals and fundraisers. Donor relations and stewardship professionals support the development profession by recognizing and thanking donors in a fashion that will cultivate future giving to nonprofit organizations.