Glossary of Terms

*Words related to **Philanthropy** and their definitions, for children and adults*

Our goal is to educate the next generation about giving. In pursuit of that goal, we've compiled a list of philanthropy-related terms used throughout the Give As We Grow® curriculum, website, and app-based game. Our hope is that this glossary will provide clarity and be a helpful tool for anyone trying to teach young people about philanthropy. For each term, we've provided a simplified explanation for children, the complete definition for adults, and any additional context. Please note that terms are grouped by topic, with only the main terms in alphabetical order. Reference materials are linked at the bottom of the document.

Agency

`CHILD` The ability to make choices.

`ADULT` "The capacity, condition, or state of acting or of exerting power." Agency[1]

`MORE INFO` In the context of service, having agency means having the capacity to help yourself or others. Developing others' agency can also be an important philanthropic goal.

Agency (collective)

`CHILD` A group of people's ability to make choices.

`ADULT` A group of people's ability to put their knowledge, skills, and resources together to create shared power and influence.

`MORE INFO` Collective agency may lead to change on a larger scale.

Agency (individual)

`CHILD` A person's ability to make choices.

`ADULT` A person's ability to use their influence and/or power to change things within their control.

`MORE INFO` Choosing to help others, choosing to act and then seeing the impact of those actions, can boost a person's sense of agency. Agency[2, 3]

Care for

CHILD Doing things that help others meet their needs.

ADULT "To protect someone or something and provide the things they need." Care for [1]

MORE INFO Care is the precursor to generosity and empathy. Individuals can show care towards oneself, other people, causes, animals, objects, etc.

Caring for Animals

CHILD Doing things that help animals.

ADULT Taking actions to benefit or care for animals.

MORE INFO You can care both for animals that are pets and animals that are wild. Caring for the environment benefits the animals living in it.

Caring for Environment

CHILD Doing things that help nature.

ADULT Taking action to benefit or protect the natural world (including living organisms like wild animals and plants and nonliving things like air and water).

MORE INFO You can care for both for your immediate environment/surroundings and for the environment outside your daily surroundings through philanthropy. Individuals' actions impact the environment around them. There is an interdependent relationship between people and the environment.

Caring for People

CHILD Doing things that help people.

ADULT Taking action to benefit or protect people.

MORE INFO You can care for people you know such as family members, friends, or classmates. You can also participate in philanthropy that benefits people outside of your direct community.

Cause

CHILD A reason for taking action; often an issue that you want to help people solve.

ADULT "An idea or principle strongly supported by some people" or a "reason for doing or feeling something." Cause [1]

MORE INFO Causes include issues within the community or society at large (example: poverty alleviation, animal welfare, and water conservation are causes).

Community

CHILD A group of people that share things in common.

ADULT "All the people who live in a particular area, or a group of people who are considered as a unit because of their shared interests or background." Community [1]

MORE INFO Individuals are part of many different communities such as local, school, religious, cultural, sports, city, statewide, national, or other identity-based communities.

Community Spaces

CHILD Places where people live, go to, or get help from in a community.

ADULT "Infrastructure - the physical spaces and services that meet the community's needs." Community [2]

MORE INFO Community spaces can take many forms including libraries, athletic centers, playgrounds, food pantries, and even online communities. Supporting community spaces can be a great way to positively impact other people's well-being. Community [3,4]

Ecosystem

CHILD All the living things (animals, plants, and insects) and nonliving things (water, rocks, and sunlight) in an area.

ADULT "A geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a bubble of life. Ecosystems contain biotic, or living, parts as well as abiotic factors, or nonliving parts." Ecosystem [1]

MORE INFO The living and nonliving things in an ecosystem interact with and influence each other, creating a complex, interconnected system. Ecosystem [1]

Empathy

`CHILD` Sharing another person's feelings and trying to understand them.

`ADULT` "The ability to share someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation." Empathy [1]

`MORE INFO` Empathy vs. Sympathy vs. Compassion:
Although often used interchangeably, these three terms have subtle differences. Sympathy is generally considered a more detached recognition of another person's struggle. Empathy implies a deeper emotional connection which allows one person to emotionally understand another's experiences. Compassion implies action, bridging the gap between feeling empathy for someone and actively helping them. Empathy [2,3]

Perspective

`CHILD` A viewpoint, how a person sees things.

`ADULT` "A particular way of viewing things that depends on one's experience and personality." Empathy [4]

`MORE INFO` Examining multiple sides of a situation and the impact that situation can have on yourself and others is beneficial to all involved. It's important to be able to see things from others' points of view and weigh them against your own.

Fairness

`CHILD` When everyone gets what they need.

`ADULT` Treating people in a way which "recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome." Fairness [1]

`MORE INFO` Fairness might also be defined as equity or justice. It involves understanding that not everyone will be equal in what they have, but everyone deserves a fair opportunity to have their needs met. Fairness [2]

Equality

`CHILD` When everyone is treated the same.

`ADULT` When "each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities." Fairness [3]

`MORE INFO` Fairness vs Equality:
Equal treatment is not always fair and does not necessarily result in equal outcomes. The band-aid lesson, linked under *References*, is a popular way to help children understand the difference between fairness and equality. Fairness [4]

Four T's of Philanthropy

MORE INFO Philanthropy can take many forms. When discussing ways to give, Give As We Grow® uses the Four T's framework (Time, Talents, Treasure and Ties). Find examples and further explanation at the referenced sources under "Four T's." Four T's [2, 3, 4]

Giving your **time**

CHILD Spending time to help others.

ADULT "Volunteering your hours to help with tasks." Four T's [1]

MORE INFO Serving others is a valuable use of time and can lead to gratification.

Giving your **talents**

CHILD Using your skills to help others.

ADULT "A way of giving back that leverages your professional [and personal] skills and expertise to help non-profit organizations achieve their mission." Four T's [1]

MORE INFO Your talents can influence the causes you are most interested in serving and supporting (example: your music talent drives your interest in volunteering for the children's orchestra fundraiser).

Giving your **treasure**

CHILD Donating money or items to help others.

ADULT "Donating money to support the work of non-profit organizations that align with your values and goals." Four T's [1]

MORE INFO In addition to monetary donations, treasure refers to material items, such as clothing. Four T's [4] You can also use your time, talents, and ties to generate treasures for others.

Giving your **ties**

CHILD Connecting your friends and family to help the community.

ADULT "A way of giving back that involves mobilizing your social network to support the causes you care about." Four T's [1]

MORE INFO Connecting your ties/social capital to causes is a form of service.

Generosity

CHILD Giving things to others or helping them without expecting anything in return.

ADULT "Voluntary, unselfish giving of time, money, attention, or other resources." Generosity [1]

MORE INFO Having empathy and compassion for others cultivates generosity.

Human Needs

CHILD Things that people need to feel safe and happy such as food, water, and shelter.

ADULT "The things that a person must have in order to have a satisfactory life." Need [1]

MORE INFO Every human has needs and every human requires support to meet those needs.

Emotional Needs

CHILD Things we need to feel happy such as safety and friendship.

ADULT "Any need that is essential to mental health or that is otherwise not a biological necessity." Need [2,3]

Physical Needs

CHILD Things that people need to live such as air, water, food, shelter, sleep, and clothing.

ADULT "Things that are necessary for survival, such as food, water, clothing, and shelter." Need[4]

MORE INFO Having your physical needs met creates the time, space, and ability to nurture your mental well-being (example: it's very difficult to learn at school if you are hungry or sleepy).

Impact

CHILD The changes caused by things you do.

ADULT The "changes that happen in people's lives, on the environment surrounding us, as well as on our planet...the outcomes and consequences of our actions, be they positive or negative." Impact [1]

MORE INFO Impact can be inward or outward:
Inward – Taking actions to benefit your community can impact your emotional well-being and make you feel positive and/or provide a sense of personal satisfaction.
Outward – Taking actions to benefit your community can impact the well-being of others.

Scale

CHILD The number of people or animals affected.

ADULT "The number of people reached" or "the number of people experiencing the outcome" of philanthropic action. Impact [2]

MORE INFO Utilizing your ties – social connections – to encourage others to participate in service can increase the scale of your impact.

Leadership

CHILD When a person guides others.

ADULT "Process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal." Leadership [1]

MORE INFO Using your voice to be a leader takes courage, but your actions can lead to positive change.

Influence

CHILD Something or someone that has an effect on other people.

ADULT "The ability to have an effect on people or events." Leadership [2]

MORE INFO Influencing ties to participate in service can have a greater impact.

Literacy

CHILD Being able to read and write.

ADULT "The ability to read and write." Literacy [1]

MORE INFO While not a basic physical need, literacy is a critical skill for accessing and meeting needs.

Philanthropy

CHILD Helping the community and others' well-being by donating your time, money, skills, and relationships.

ADULT "Voluntary giving by an individual or group to promote the common good and improve the quality of life." Philanthropy [1]

MORE INFO Philanthropy can take many forms. See "Four T's of Philanthropy" terms.

Donate

CHILD To give your objects, items, money or time/talents to those that need help.

ADULT "To give money or goods to help a person or organization." Philanthropy [2]

MORE INFO Talents and ties can be donated as well in the form of time or recruiting additional people to assist an organization.

Volunteer

CHILD Someone who spends time helping people, animals or the environment without being paid.

ADULT "A person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it." Philanthropy [3]

MORE INFO Volunteering is an act of generosity for others but can also provide an increased sense of pride and happiness for the volunteer.

Purpose

CHILD Why someone does something.

ADULT "An abiding intention to achieve a long-term goal that is both personally meaningful and makes a positive mark on the world." purpose [1]

Service

CHILD Help given to people, animals, or the environment.

ADULT "Work done or help provided, especially for the public or for a person or an organization." Service [1]

MORE INFO Service often refers to a subset of philanthropy that is more hands-on. Sharing your time and talents with an important cause improves the well-being of others or the environment.

Direct Service

CHILD Working personally with the people, animals, or environment you want to help.

ADULT "[Philanthropic] action that happens in the presence of the persons, animals, or places we want to impact." Service [2]

MORE INFO Example: Reading to a senior at a senior center; spending time walking dogs at an animal shelter.

Indirect Service

CHILD Helping people, animals, or the environment without spending time in-person with them.

ADULT Philanthropic action that "may not be in the presence of the person or thing you are impacting." Service [2]

MORE INFO Example: Writing holiday cards for seniors that get delivered to a senior center; raising money to support wildlife conservation.

Well-being

CHILD   Being happy, healthy, and safe.

ADULT   "A positive state experienced by individuals and societies. Similar to health, it is a resource for daily life and is determined by social, economic and environmental conditions. [It] encompasses quality of life, as well as the ability of people and societies to contribute to the world in accordance with a sense of meaning and purpose." Well-being [1]

MORE INFO   Well-being can be broken down into physical and mental well-being. Our state of well-being can be improved by showing care towards ourselves and generosity towards others.

Environmental Well-being

CHILD   Being able to care for and enjoy the environment.

ADULT   "Leading a lifestyle that values the relationship between ourselves, our community, and the environment." Well-being [2]

MORE INFO   Our surroundings can influence our mental and physical well-being. Nurturing environmental well-being involves recognizing that we are part of a complex, interconnected ecosystem.

Mental Well-being

CHILD   Being happy and able to deal with stress in life.

ADULT   "The ability to successfully handle life's stresses and adapt to change and difficult times." Well-being [3]

MORE INFO   When all emotional and physical needs are being met, it benefits mental well-being.

Physical Well-being

CHILD   Being healthy and safe from harm.

ADULT   "The ability to perform physical activities and carry out social roles that are not hindered by physical limitations and experiences of bodily pain, and biological health indicators." Well-being [4]

References

Agency	1	[Merriam-Webster dictionary: "agency"](#)
	2	[Greater Good Magazine: How to Empower Students to Take Action for Social Change](#)
	3	[Greater Good Magazine: Seven Ways to Feel More in Control of Your Life](#)
Care for	1	[Cambridge Dictionary: "care for"](#)
Cause	1	[Cambridge Dictionary: "cause"](#)
Community	1	[Cambridge Dictionary: "community"](#)
	2	[Taking Charge of Your Wellbeing by University of Minnesota: What Is the Role of Community Spaces and Services?](#)
	3	[Barnwood Trust: What is a 'community space' and why are we so passionate about them?](#)
	4	[Project for Public Spaces: What is placemaking?](#)
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Empathy	1	[Cambridge Dictionary: "empathy"](#)
	2	[Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine: Empathy, sympathy and compassion in healthcare: Is there a problem? Is there a difference? Does it matter?](#)
	3	[Royal Society of Arts: Brené Brown on Empathy](#)
	4	[Cambridge Dictionary: "perspective"](#)
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	2	[Cambridge Dictionary: "fairness"](#)
	3	[United Way NCA: Equity vs. Equality: What's the Difference](#)
	4	[Lifehacker: Teach Kids the Difference Between 'Fair' and 'Equal'](#)
Four T's	1	[Community Foundation of Lorain County: The 5 T's of Charitable Giving](#)
	2	[Generous Genes by Susan Crites Price](#) (book)
	3	[Akron Rotary Club: Speaker Recap: Karen Hrdlicka - The 4 T's](#)
	4	[Ryan Nece Foundation: Empowering Students Through the 4 T's](#)

Generosity	1	Berkeley Wellbeing Institute: Generosity
Need	1	Cambridge Dictionary: "need"
	2	APA Dictionary of Psychology: "psychological need"
	3	Mental Health America: What Every Child Needs For Good Mental Health
	4	Berkeley Wellbeing Institute: Needs and Wants
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	2	Cambridge Dictionary: "donate"
	3	Cambridge Dictionary: "volunteer"
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Service	1	Cambridge Dictionary: "service"
	2	Learning To Give: The Four Types of Service Action
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	2	Harvard University Center for Wellness and Health Promotion: Your Wellness - Environmental
	3	National Institutes of Health: Your Healthiest Self - Emotional Wellness Toolkit
	4	Springer Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research: "Physical Well-being"