

BUDGETING FOR GIVING

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This month's challenge is to budget charitable giving for the holidays. Charitable giving tends to increase around the holiday season, and this year it's more important than ever to help others. It's important to budget for charitable giving even if you aren't rich (and most of us aren't.)

HOW TO GIVE

A good rule of thumb is to set aside 10% of your income for giving each month. Some financial advisors recommend the 50/30/20 rule: give 50% of your allotted donation amount to organizations that support causes you are passionate about; give 30% to organizations to which you have a loyalty or obligation (like alumni associations or religious groups) and 20% to unplanned requests or individuals who need help. It's important to plan and budget for charitable donations just as you would any other expense. You probably already know which causes you like to support. However, current events such as natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic can often change how we prioritize our giving.

VETTING NONPROFITS

- **Charity Navigator** is a website that examines non-profit financial documents to developed a numbers-based rating system for these organizations. Their scores focus mostly on financial transparency.
- **GiveWell** is another website that researches charities based on the amount of impact that they have. They research and highlight charities that will improve the lives of the most people.

GIVING DIRECTLY

- **GiveDirectly** is an organization that gives cash directly to people in poverty. Their research shows that cash transfers are the most effective way to help people in poverty.
- **GiveWell** is another website that researches charities based on the amount of impact that they have. They research and highlight charities that will improve the lives of the most people.
- Mutual aid has also become more important during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can see which of your neighbors need help by joining the **Gainesville COVID-19 Mutual Aid Facebook group**, or searching to see if a group exists for your area.
- As it gets colder, our unhoused neighbors also need extra help. Giving money or supplies directly to people and being prepared with supplies in your car can go a long way.
- And if you can't give financially, you can give your time. Find an organization about which you're passionate, and find a way to volunteer regularly!