

## Investing in Others

*“Philanthropy is a fancy way to say that you care about others and that you want to serve others.”*

*- Priscilla Chan, American pediatrician and philanthropist.*



When you invest in others, you are being caring and making the world a better place by helping others have a better future with your time, talent (skills), and treasures (items and money). To make sure you are using your resources wisely, discover how to help organizations and governments that serve others.

### Steps

1. Find out about others' goals for the future
2. Make a plan to help others reach their goal
3. Save to help others
4. Learn how governments helps others
5. Advocate for others' future

### Purpose

When I've earned this patch, I'll know more about how to help others have a better future.

### Step 1: Find out about others' goals for the future

You have goals and dreams for your future – and so do other people. If you know what is needed, you can give help in a way that others want. Learn how organizations have goals to help others to reach their dreams.

Choose one:

- **Ask an organization about their goals for the future.** Talk with a person who works at organization you care about. Find out what they want to do in the future. Write down what they need to make their goals happen.
- **Talk to an organization about how they plan to help others.** If you've found an organization that is important to you, speak with someone about how they decide to what to do for others in the future. Make a list of what the organization needs to help others.
- **Research the mission of an organization.** If you care about helping a cause, like adopting animals, educating girls, or keeping water clean, do some research with an adult's help about what groups are working to solve these problems. Learn about their missions and goals for helping with these issues.

## Step 2: Make a plan to help others reach a goal

Helping others reach their goals starts with a good plan. When you create a plan how to help an organization, you are building a map of how to help the organization reach their goals for the future.

Choose one:

- **Create a poster of the organization’s goal.** Seeing a picture of a goal can make it more real and easier to work to achieve it. Help an organization reach their goal by making a poster of their mission and the steps you can do to help them reach it. Show your poster to others to spread the message.
- **Write an algorithm.** An algorithm is a list of steps that tells someone how to do something. You could write an algorithm to learn to kick a soccer goal, to tie a shoe, or anything else! Write an algorithm to teach someone how to help an organization. Share your algorithm for someone to follow.
- **Work as a team.** Talking with others can be a big help to think about great ideas! Brainstorm a plan with others of how to help an organization make their goal happen. Tell your team’s plan to your friends or family.

## Step 3: Save to help others

The choices you make today can help you give others a better future. When you save money to help an organization help others, there are benefits, which are good things that you get. But there are also costs, or bad things that happen, too. You also could decide to spend your money on other things. These trade-offs are called “opportunity costs.”

As you choose how to help others, think about your choices between the benefits, the costs, the opportunity costs, and what is most important to you.

Choose one:

- **Think about the opportunity cost of saving to help others.** Make a chart with four boxes. In the top left box write the good things (benefits) about saving to help others. In the box below, write a list of the costs, or bad things, about saving to help others. Now pick something else you could do with your money and write the benefits in the top right and the costs in the bottom right. Your chart tells you what your opportunity costs are for saving to help others or doing something else. Which will you pick?
- **Create a plan to save.** When you save your money or donations to help others, you are able to make a bigger difference. Your donation adds up over time. While \$1 or one can of food can help others, if you and 5 Brownie friends each saved \$1 a week for 4 months, you’d have \$100 to give to help others. What else could you save and for how long? Talk with an adult or your Brownie friends to create a plan to save.
- **Volunteer your time.** Sometimes the best way to use your money is to save it for other things. If you decide the opportunity cost of saving money for others is too big and you choose to use your money somewhere else, you can still help others by spending your time making the world a better place. Save time in your week to help out someone who needs a hand.

#### **Step 4: Learn how governments help others**

Our communities have governments that provide goods and services to their people, the citizens. The governments pay for these goods and services from taxes. Taxes are required payments people make to the government. The government uses this tax money to help its citizens by building roads, providing police and fire departments, paying for health care, providing schools, and more.

Governments uses different kinds of taxes to pay for different things. Income tax is a payment on the money you earn at a job. Property tax is a payment on the house and property you own. And some places have sales tax as a payment on the items you buy.

Choose one:

- **Find out what goods and services your local government provides.** Your local governments help their people, their citizens, by providing goods and services. This might include providing law enforcement, emergency services, roads, and schools. Research what your local government provides to its citizens.
- **Learn how your local government pays for services.** Your local government takes care of the people who live its area, its citizens. But how do they pay for all of that? Visit your local government offices to find out which taxes your local government uses to pay for goods and services.
- **Create a list of things you would tax to help others.** Think about what you would charge a tax for to help others, if you were a government leader? What would you do to make your taxes fair? Do you have another way to make sure others get the goods and services they need? Talk about your list with an adult or your Brownie friends.

#### **Step 5: Advocate for others' future**

Telling people that you believe in an organization's goals makes you an advocate for their future. You can use your voice to help them reach their goals when you share their message and your support.

Choose one:

- **Share a story.** Telling the story about the future goals of an organization that helps others gives their story a bigger voice. Use your voice to spread the goals of an organization through a story, video, or artwork. Share your creation with others.
- **Write a letter of support.** Show how much you support the goal of an organization by writing a letter to someone who can help them. Write about the organization and their goal, why it is important, and why you believe in them. Encourage the reader to help the organization reach their goal for the future.
- **Give a presentation.** Host a meeting or party with your Brownie friends or on your own to share about the future goals of an organization. Invite their favorite supporters and people who can make their goals come true. Give a speech or presentation about the organization and their goals and ask for support from people.