

Helping Others

Lesson Annotation: Charitable giving is important on all levels. In this lesson students will work to identify several local charities, their impact on the community and different ways of making charitable contributions.

Grade Level: Grade 6-8

Duration: 60 minutes

Economic Concepts: Costs, Benefits

Personal Financial Literacy Standards

Standard 1: Students will apply financial literacy reasoning in order to make informed, financially responsible decisions.

- 1.8.A Students will analyze choices that people make based on available resources, needs, and wants for goods and services
- 1.8.B.2 Connect the role of philanthropy, volunteer service, and charities to community development and quality of life.

Objective: Students will be able to...

- identify different charities active in the community,
- identify different ways of making charitable contributions,
- explain the impact of charities on the development and quality of life in the community.

Vocabulary

charity: the voluntary provision of money, materials, or help to people in need.

philanthropy: a personal or corporate interest in helping others, especially through gifts to charities or endowments to institutions.

Teacher Materials

- Transparency of Resource 1: *K-W-L Chart*
- Chart paper to record student answers

Student Materials

- Resource 1: *K-W-L Chart* (One per student)
- Resource 2: *Charity Information Grid* (One per student)

Teacher Background

Every year Americans contribute more to charities than other countries. (In 2005 Americans contributed twice as much to charity as the next most charitable country.) In 2009 Americans made contributions valued at \$303.75 billion dollars to charities. It isn't just extremely rich people like Bill Gates or Warren Buffett who contribute to charity. Over 65% of American households with incomes of less than \$100,000 give to charity.

Motivation

Ask students think about one wish they would like to have granted more than any other. Encourage students to share their responses. Ask them if they know the name of the charity that grants wishes to children with life threatening medical conditions. (*Make-a-Wish*; At www.wish.org, the national web site for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, you can find examples of wishes the foundation has granted.) Tell students that, during this lesson, they will uncover information about different local, national and international charities as well as the types of donations that can be made to charities.

Development

1. Ask students to recall a charitable drive in which they've participated in school. (EX: bringing in cans of food for the area Food Bank or perhaps raising money to help flood victims, an accident victim, etc. Explain to students how this fulfills the definition of a charity.
2. Distribute Resource 1: *K-W-L Chart*. Ask students to complete the "K" column, *What I Know*, writing down everything they know about charities. If they have difficulty getting started suggest a few questions they could answer such as:
 - a. What are the names of some charities?
 - b. Have you heard of any famous people associated with charities?
 - c. What do charities do?
 - d. Do charities always involve money donations?
3. After the students have completed the "K" portion of the K-W-L chart have them share their responses. Record their responses on the board, chart paper or any other appropriate area.
4. As a class determine the "W" portion of the K-W-L chart. In this portion students record what they want to know about charities. (To achieve the objectives of this lesson, it would be helpful if the section included responses to:

- a. What are the names of some local charities?
 - b. What do these charities do?
 - c. Does all the money donated go directly to the need?
5. As a class generate a list of charities or people in the community associated with charities to investigate. The list might include local athletes, teams, charities students might be involved with, or national/international charities of which they are aware. Some current possibilities include:

Make-a-Wish Foundation	Kids Helping Kids	Ronald McDonald House
T.J. Housmandzadeh	Orioles REACH	Maryland Food Bank
Ray Lewis	The Right Side	Locks of Love
Domonique Foxworth	Willis McGahee	Brandon McKinney
London's Bridge Foundation	Todd Heap	Heifer International
Baltimore Orioles Charitable Foundation		

6. Have students research either the personalities or their charities. Possible websites include:

- a. www.baltimoreravens.com/News?Community/Player_Foundations.aspx
This site also contains links to players' charities.
- b. www.baltimoreorioles.mlb.com/bal/community/community.jsp
- c. www.rightsidefoundation.org
- d. www.mdfoodbank.org

Students should complete Resource 2: *Charity Information Grid*. The questions can be changed if the class creates other questions. Students may record the information on Resource 2 or on chart paper posted around the room.

7. Have students share the information they have gathered.
8. Divide students into pairs. Conduct a Think-Pair-Share activity with the class. Each student should think about the following questions posed by the teacher and write his or her answer on a sheet of paper.
- a. What do the charities do for Maryland and beyond?
 - b. How do charities influence the quality of life in Maryland and beyond?

Then, both students in the pair should verbally share their answers. If necessary each should revise their written responses to the question adding to their knowledge.

Assessment

Students should complete the “L” portion of the K-W-L chart, *What I Have Learned*.

Additional Activities

- Invite a representative of a local charity to talk to the class about the mission of the charity and its impact on the community.
- Have the class plan an activity to support a local charity.

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know	L What I Learned

Charity Information Grid

Name of charity or person:

What does this charity do? OR How does this person help the community?

How can a person help this charity?

How does this charity help the community?

Name of charity or person:

What does this charity do? OR How does this person help the community?

How can a person help this charity?

How does this charity help the community?