

# LESSON 4

## FINANCIAL LITERACY

### Make a difference, donate!

When you help another person or a group of people by sharing your time, money, talents or other resources you are participating in what is called philanthropy. When you do this without making money, it is called a donation. People often donate time, money, talents or other resources to improve their community or support a specific group of people such as the homeless or children with cancer.



People often choose to donate:

- to help create a strong community
- to do something as family
- to help a business connect with the community
- to help raise money for a group or issue that holds special meaning
- to support a personal or religious belief



A non-profit organization, also called a charity, is a business just like a fast food restaurant or a clothing store. However, instead of trying to make money, a non-profit organization tries to help people. Charities and donating are so important that the federal government has created tax benefits for companies and individuals who donate. Always remember that there is no such thing as a donation that is too small or too big. When you choose to give your time, money, talents or other resources you are making a positive impact on another person's life.

#### Activity:

1. Research three charities in your city or state.  
Answer the following questions for each charity:
  - a. What is the name of the charity?
  - b. What is the charity's mission?
  - c. When did the charity start?
  - d. Who is directly impacted by the charity?
  - e. What types of programs or activities does this charity do to help people?
  - f. How does the charity get money?
  - g. What ways can you donate (money, time, talents, etc.)?



Now, imagine you had \$10,000 to donate to one of these charities. Which one would you choose and why? Did your research help you make this decision? Why do you think your donation will help?

This lesson is consistent with the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Standard 14 of the Personal Financial Literacy Passport. For more resources, visit the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education's support website at [www.moneyisok.org](http://www.moneyisok.org).

