

Finding a Cause

Purpose

This assignment is designed to help students develop a critical approach to charitable giving. Not only will students explore their own philanthropic interests, but they will also get a glimpse of the challenge that serious philanthropists face. Using the concept of "effective altruism", students will select a charitable cause and carefully and critically analyze organizations seeking to address that cause.

Assignment

Explore philanthropic causes and select one that you are particularly interested in, either one we discussed in class or one you find on your own. The cause may be as broad or as narrow as your interest, for example, "malaria prevention in third world countries" and "education" would both be acceptable. After selecting your cause, identify three organizations that address that need. Record the basic information for each (name, headquarter location, website) and then dig deeper:

- How does this organization address the cause you selected? What is/are their primary service/s?
- What do they offer that other similar organizations do not? What is unique about them?
- How does this organization demonstrate its legitimacy?
- How does this organization demonstrate impact? Who does it serve? How many people does it help?
- Who donates to this organization? (if information is available)
- If I were to donate \$10, what would the quantitative and qualitative impact be? \$100? \$1,000? \$10,000?

Rubric

I'm looking for evidence that you spent time thoughtfully evaluating each organization. Provide substantial answers to each of the questions above to receive full credit. The more detailed the information you provide, the better. This exercise will give you an idea of what donors and philanthropists are looking for when selecting their organizations of choice. This assignment is worth 15 points or 30% of your participation points for the semester; take it seriously!