

Survey for Youth Philanthropy Stakeholder Organizations

Produced by the Young Donor Network

We appreciate the time you're taking to fill out this survey. Your responses will serve young donors in their efforts to connect with organizations built to support and engage them. The Young Donor Network believes that the journey of a young donor involves a "Lifecycle," explained below. We feel that an understanding of this lifecycle allows organizations in the "young philanthropy space" to more effectively serve their clients and the constituency as a whole.

The survey opens with three primary questions. Your responses will be published on our website and will help give young philanthropists an introduction to your organization.

After, the survey continues with more, asking about the "Lifecycle of a Young Donor" and how it relates to your organization.

Please respond to any questions that apply and, if necessary, provide background information related to *how* your organization plugs into any particular step of the Lifecycle.

Please email Jonah Wittkamper at jwittkamper@sfcg.org with questions and responses.

Thank you!

About your Organization

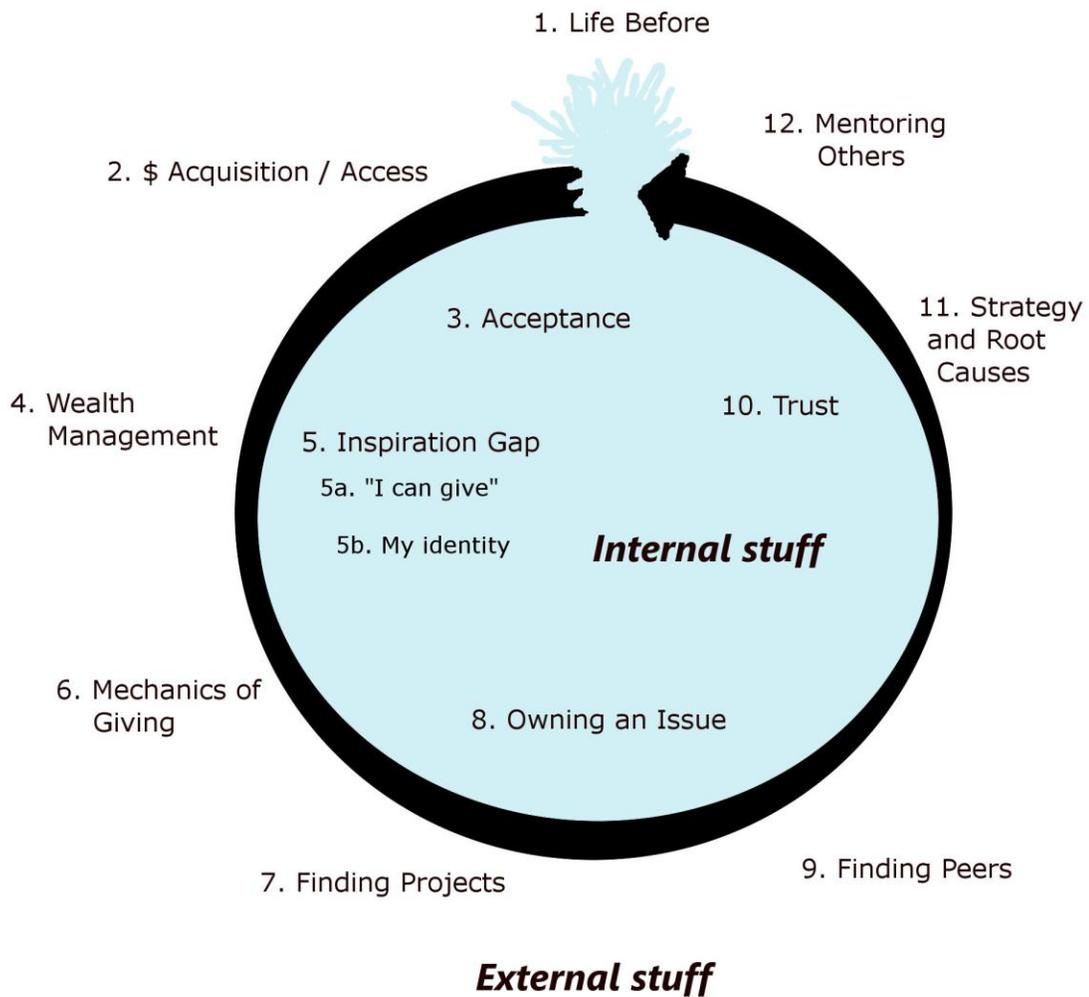
- 1. What part of your organization involves young people? In what capacity?**
- 2. Why should young philanthropists become a part of your network and/or engaged with your organization?**
- 3. What distinguishes you from other young philanthropy support groups?**

Lifecycle of a Young Donor Questions

The world of philanthropy is a busy place, yet not enough children from families of extreme wealth get involved in strategic giving. Why? The Lifecycle presented here is our attempt to conceive of young philanthropy in a holistic way. Many organizations support individuals in one or more of the areas described in this model, but no group provides support in all areas. Support is not comprehensive. The cycle or "loop" is not closed. If it was closed, if support was comprehensive, would generosity of young wealth-holders rise substantially? We hope that this model, together with the dozens of relevant organizations linked from this site, can together "close the loop" and inspire greater, more strategic giving.

It should be noted that though the model is somewhat chronological, the milestones it describes do not necessarily need to be considered sequentially

Lifecycle of a Young Philanthropist



1. Life Before - Before questions of wealth concern us, before we reach adulthood our families and our communities have a strong influence on who we are and what we prioritize for the world. Many families, in addition to preparing for wealth transfer across generation, prepare for a values transfer as well.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

2. \$ Acquisition/Access - Many people experience a defining moment in their lives when they inherit substantial wealth for the first time or join the boards of their family foundations and hold the decision-making power to give philanthropically at significant levels.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

3. Acceptance - Many young wealth-holders deny or reject their affluence and the privilege that comes with it. Through "acceptance" we overcome guilt and begin to learn how to use our resources to make the world a better place. Peer groups, literature, and organizations can help people go through this process.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

4. Wealth Management - Part of having more than you need is investing wisely. Many people chose either to invest resources themselves, or to leave the responsibility with others. Many groups help donors invest in a socially responsible ways.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

5. Inspiration & Awareness Gap - A chief limiting factor of philanthropic inclination is that young wealth-holders are unaware or uninspired, meaning they lack understanding, vision, hope, or willingness to give. Until individuals overcome this internal struggle, they may not see a need to give, think its worth giving, or feel motivation to give. We have identified two components of the Inspiration Gap:

5a. "I Can Make A Difference" - Many people can describe a single moment in their lives when they make a shift and realize that the needs of the world are greater than their own personal needs. This moment is complicated for many, and is bundled in questions of both self-love as well as hopelessness. Until one believes his or her efforts can really make a difference, there is seldom motivation to give philanthropically.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

5b. My Identity - In parallel to cultivating one's own willingness to give, donors grapple with important questions of priority and identity. "Who should I give to? How much? When?" The answers to these questions are influenced by external factors, but driven primarily by internal factors such as a person's identity. As young people step into the world and develop new relationships they grow to understand themselves and their values. Through these relationships they develop cultural, religious, and political identities, which have a lasting impact on their altruistic and philanthropic priorities. Without relationships and without an understanding or appreciating their identities, young people have a hard time deciding priorities philanthropically and otherwise.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

6. Mechanics of Giving - Incorporating a non-profit and setting up a grant-making foundation is no simple task that involves many legal decisions. Many donor-advised funds and philanthropy support organizations help people explore these choices and make informed decisions.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

7. Finding Projects - With many thousands of non-profit organizations to choose from donors can become overwhelmed. Many services help match donors with organizations that meet their interests.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

8. Owning an Issue - As people get deeper into the issues they care about they become connected to them and invested emotionally. In this moment, they begin to take leadership and analyze issues in greater detail.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

9. Finding Peers - As young donors develop appreciation for the complexity of issues, they recognize that in order to do philanthropy well, it helps to have a learning community. Finding other young wealth-holders who are peers in generosity can significantly help people build confidence and improve their decision-making.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

10. Trust - Increasing investments of time and money bring donors deeper into issues and organizations. In this process new challenges arise. "Can I let someone else make decisions for me? How much autonomy should I give my grantees?" From an internal perspective, the answers to these questions center in large part on questions of Trust.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

11. Strategizing and Investigating Root Causes - The philanthropic journey frequently leads donors to discover that the causes they care about are permanently interconnected with others. "Which came first, the Chicken or the Egg?" To resolve the most pressing issues in our society it is important to understand the cultural context of issues, together with the economic and political histories of communities. This learning process guides donors to focus on and strategize around root causes of issues.

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation:

12. Mentoring Others - Generosity begets generosity. When young donors hit a stride with their philanthropy, they become inspired by the idea of helping others. "I would not be here today if some very significant people had not given me the emotional, spiritual, and strategic support that I needed. I am here now to give back and offer the same."

Yes, We work on this []

Explanation
