

LE 2

Including Charity Donations in Your Budget

OBJECTIVE

Students will:

- learn how to select a charity that's worth their support

TIME

40 minutes

MATERIALS

- Make Your Money Count! activity sheet

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

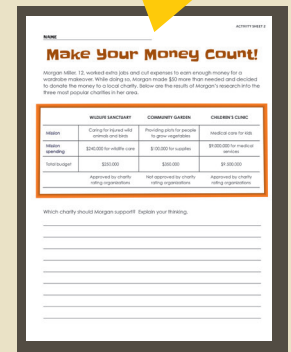
- Earning (section 3) and budgeting lesson, [Teens' Instructor Guide](#)
- Lessons 2, 3, and 4, [Teens' Toolkit](#)

STANDARDS

- Jump\$tart Financial Literacy Standards: Financial Decision Making 4d

DIRECTIONS

- Ask students to brainstorm causes they believe make the world, their community, and their school a better place, including charities they already know. List responses on the board. If the term **charity** isn't mentioned, write it on the board and ask students to define it. Point out that charities are organizations that serve the common good, either locally or globally. Their aim isn't to make a profit but to advance a worthy goal, like ending hunger or disease.
- Brainstorm reasons people should help charities. Answers could include advancing a specific cause, the good feeling people get from helping others, and the positive experience of teaming up with like-minded people.
- See if students know how to select a charity to support. First, students should review a charity's mission statement on its website to determine if the charity works on causes that the student cares about. Next, students should review the honesty and effectiveness of the charity's practices to be sure they will be donating time or money to a worthwhile organization. Students can review a charity's rating by doing research, such as visiting sites to find information about an organization's finances and programs. Once they've determined that a charity has favorable ratings, they can also review how much of that charity's budget is spent on helping people.
- Hand out the Make Your Money Count! activity sheet and ask students to work on it individually or in pairs. Go over the answers as a class. Answers will vary but should include that charity rating organizations approve both the wildlife sanctuary and the children's clinic, and these two charities also use a high percentage of their budgets for program expenses.
- Distribute the Acts of Kindness family activity sheet and ask students to complete it at home with their families. Explain how being thoughtful, friendly, and generous to classmates and other people they come across is another way to make their community and school a better place.



Make Your Money Count!

Morgan Miller, 12, worked extra jobs and cut expenses to earn enough money for a wildlife sanctuary. While doing so, Morgan made \$50 more than needed and decided to donate the money to a local charity. Below are the results of Morgan's research on two different possible charities to help out.

	WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	COMMUNITY GARDEN	CHILDREN'S CLINIC
Mission	Caring for the most at-risk children and teens.	Providing seeds for people to grow vegetables.	Medical care for kids.
Annual operating budget	\$145,000 for wildlife care.	\$100,000 for supplies.	\$100,000 for medical supplies.
Volunteer budget	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$10,000
	Approved by charity rating organization.	Not approved by charity rating organization.	Approved by charity rating organization.

Which charity should Morgan support? Explain your thinking.



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TAKE IT FURTHER

As a class, pick a charity and set a goal of volunteer hours and/or dollars the students can donate to it. Make a chart that helps your students track their progress.

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Ask your students to answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. What are some of the ways a person can pick a charity that is right for them?

Key points: Individuals should look at a charity's mission statement to make sure the purpose of the charity is meaningful to them. Additionally, looking at the ratio of program expenses to total expenses and finding charities that are approved by rating agencies will help ensure that the charity uses its funds effectively.

2. How do charities help improve life in our communities and the world in general?

Key points: Individuals should look at a charity's mission statement to find out its purpose. There are a variety of ways that charities help. Their missions range from improving health, education, the arts, and reducing poverty, hunger, etc.

NAME _____

Make Your Money Count!

Morgan, 12, worked extra jobs and cut expenses to earn enough money for a wardrobe makeover. While doing so, Morgan made \$50 more than needed and decided to donate the money to a local charity. Below are the results of Morgan's research into the three most popular charities in her area.

	WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	COMMUNITY GARDEN	CHILDREN'S CLINIC
Mission	Caring for injured wild animals and birds	Providing plots for people to grow vegetables	Medical care for kids
Program expenses	\$240,000 for wildlife care	\$100,000 for supplies	\$9,000,000 for medical services
Total budget	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$9,500,000
	High rating by charity rating organizations	Low rating by charity rating organizations	High rating by charity rating organizations

Which charity should Morgan support? Explain your thinking.

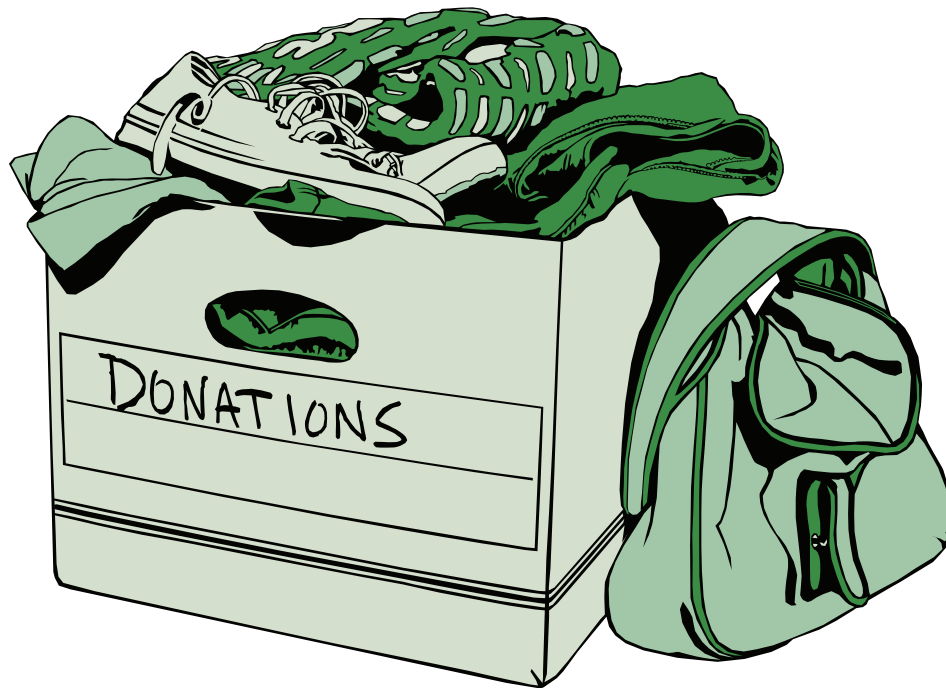
Acts of Kindness

Dear Parents,

Giving back is an important part of financial planning. In class, your child has learned how to figure out if a charity will put its donations to good use.

In addition to donating to and volunteering with a charity, there are other ways to give back. One simple way is by being kind to others. Learning to be compassionate can help your child become more empathetic, get along better with others, and be happier.

The following activity calls upon you to practice both types of charity!



ACTIVITY

1. Discuss how each member of your family can practice one act of kindness per day toward classmates, strangers, coworkers, or family members for seven days straight. Some examples might include letting someone go first in line; writing a thank-you note to a teacher, friend, or sibling; picking up litter outside; having lunch with a classmate who doesn't have many friends; or donating a toy to a family in need.
2. Then, at the end of the day or at dinner, share your acts of kindness with one another. Keep track of your family's deeds on a calendar or chart.
3. Inspired after your week of paying it forward? Branch out with acts of kindness toward a local charity or one outside your community. Your child can show you online sites to help you determine worthy places to volunteer or to support with donations.