

Glossary of Stewardship Terms

Adoption Philanthropy: a type of philanthropy in which the philanthropist "adopts" family members or friends and assists them in their activities

Allocate: in finance, to distribute assets into various accounts, usually with a view to maximizing return

Assets: the things that a person owns (e.g., cash, investments, hard goods, property)

Benefactor: a person who does good to someone else, especially by giving needed funds

Beneficence: the act or quality of doing good to others, especially by giving needed funds

Beneficiary: a person or organization that receives a gift, especially needed funds, from someone else

Brokering Philanthropy: a type of philanthropy in which the philanthropist solicits friends and colleagues to help a cause or charity

Budget: a detailed plan for spending money, taking into account both income and various categories of expenses

Capital: the means of production; sufficient funds to undertake a given project

Capital Campaign: in churches and nonprofits, a long term fund-raising drive to generate capital for some specific project, especially a building

Charitable: not-for-profit; characterized by self-sacrifice and pursuit of the public good

Charity: in management, a nonprofit organization that exists to serve the public good. The Canada Revenue Agency uses the common law test for charitable purposes which states that the four purposes of charity are (1) the relief of poverty; (2) the advancement of education; (3) the advancement of religion; and (4) other purposes beneficial to the community as a whole that the courts have identified as charitable

Christian Community Foundation: a local-level grant making foundation whose assets come from area Christian donors and whose grants go to local Christian mission work

Christian Giving: giving that is motivated by the Christian gospel, i.e., God's Grace to us in giving us His Son

Church/Parish: an organized community of Christians, meeting regularly for public worship, involved in mission and ministry in the world, and joined with other parishes in an episcopally diocese

Contribution: a gift, usually to an organization, for which no goods or services are

received in return

Development: in nonprofit management, the task of raising money and building a constituency for an organization (relationships); commonly a synonym for "fund-raising"

Disbursement: distribution of funds to a designated recipient

Disciple: to lead someone toward growth in the Christian faith

Donor: someone who makes a charitable contribution(s)

Donor-Advised Fund: a fund administered by a foundation or charity on behalf of a donor, in which the donor "advises" when and to whom disbursements are to be made

Donation: a gift, usually to an organization, for which no goods or services are received in return

Endowment: a fund in which donations are held and invested for the long term providing income or earned interest which is used for charitable purposes

Entrepreneurial Philanthropy: a type of philanthropy in which a wealthy person financially establishes and personally directs a new charitable enterprise

Estate Planning: a division of financial planning in which an advisor and client make plans for the disbursement of the client's assets (i.e., "estate") in the event of his/her death, especially in the form of inheritance(s) and charitable donations

Faith: in theology, believing, trusting God because He has proved Himself trustworthy

Faith Promise: in church fund-raising, a promise made privately to God to give a certain generous amount in faith that God will provide; different from a "pledge," which is made to the church and put in writing

Foundation: a privately funded nonprofit organization that serves the public good either by operating its own programs (see "Operating Foundation") or by giving financial grants to other charitable organizations (see "Grant making Foundation")

Freewill Offering: a voluntary gift from a person (or people) to God, not due to any religious obligation but only the desire of the giver

Frugality: the habit of spending very little money

Fundraising: the work of soliciting donations for a charitable project or operations

Generosity: the habit of giving away large amounts of money

Generous: characterized by the inclination to give away large amounts of money

Gift: an item of value, handed over to another party, for which no goods or services are received in return

Gift of Giving: one of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament; the ability to regularly give large amounts of money to God and His people

Give: to hand over one's property to another party without receiving any goods or services in return

Giver: a person who gives her money away

Giving Circle: a group of people who pool their charitable dollars so as to achieve maximum impact and make giving decisions as a committee

Giving Plan: a strategy for allocating one's charitable dollars, so as to give purposefully and achieve maximum impact

Grant: a financial gift from a donor or foundation to a charitable organization, intended to fund a certain charitable project

Grant making: the practice of giving money ("grants") to worthy charitable organizations

Grant making Foundation: a privately funded nonprofit organization that serves the public good indirectly by giving financial grants to other charitable organizations

Grant Proposal: a document submitted by a charitable organization to a donor or foundation proposing to do a certain charitable work and requesting funds to finance that work

Gross Income: a person's total income prior to all applicable tax withholdings

Income: any non-gift money that a person or organization receives (e.g., wages for labor, return on investments, disability compensation)

Inheritance: assets that one person leaves at his death to another person, especially a family member

Interest: the price paid for the use of a sum of money, either earned (in the case of an investment) or paid (in the case of a debt)

Invest: to put one's money to profitable use, usually by purchasing an appreciating asset(s)

Investment: what a person does with a certain sum of money, usually with an eye to maximizing return

Legacy: a general term for the impression a person leaves after his death; in philanthropy, especially with reference to families that have a multigenerational tradition of charitable giving

Lottery: a gambling game in which people buy numbered tickets and winning numbers are drawn at random

Major Donor: in the nonprofit sector, a donor who gives especially large gifts

relative to the budget of the organization

Managerial Philanthropy: a type of philanthropy in which a person contributes organizational expertise (rather than money) to improve the effectiveness of a charitable organization

Ministry: in business, a nonprofit organization that exists to serve some specifically Christian purpose

Model: an example that can be successfully imitated, albeit with necessary modifications, in other contexts

Money: a medium of exchange for goods and services in human societies

Net Income: the amount of income one is left with after all applicable tax withholdings (see also "Take-Home Pay")

Net Worth: the sum of all a person's assets minus all his liabilities; the total dollar amount of his property

Offering: a gift from a person (or people) to God, often ceremonially in the context of public worship

Offertory: the liturgical setting of the offering, including music, prayers, etc.

Operating Foundation: a privately funded nonprofit organization that serves the public good directly by operating its own charitable programs

Parachurch: literally "alongside the church"; a term for Christian ministries that operate outside the auspices of any institutional church body

Philanthropist: literally "lover of humankind"; a person who gives her/his resources (especially money) in such a way as to contribute to the public good

Philanthropy: literally "love of humankind"; the practice of giving resources (especially money) in such a way as to contribute to the public good

Pledge: in church fund-raising, a promise made to the church and put in writing to give a certain generous amount in faith that God will provide; different from a "faith promise," which is made privately to God

Portfolio: all a person's investments

Possessions: the things that a person owns

Poverty: the state of not having enough resources to participate fully in society, often caused by not having enough money to get by, but it can also be caused by economic structures or because of a lack of education or opportunity

Principal: the amount of an investment or debt, on which amount interest is calculated

Professional Advisor: a person whose job is to counsel others on the wise use of

their money (e.g., tax lawyer, accountant, financial planner, etc.)

Prosperity: the state of having more than enough money, education, opportunities and resources to participate fully in society

Recipient: the person to whom a gift is given

Socially Responsible Investing: a method of investing that takes into account "social responsibility," i.e., the investor's obligation to act in the best interests of society as a whole, so that one only invests in companies whose work contributes to the public good

Solicitation: a request for a contribution, usually from a nonprofit organization

Steward: in ancient society, the servant who was responsible for the management of the home; in theology, the role of every human being as responsible for protecting God's resources (see also "Stewardship")

Stewardship: in theology, the way in which human beings manage God's resources and act in the world (see also "Steward")

Strategic Giving: a method of charitable giving in which the donor sets out to maximize the impact of his gift(s), thinking as a charitable "investor"

Take-Home Pay: the amount of income one is left with after all applicable tax withholdings (see also "Net Income")

Tax Credit: in tax law, an amount that one is credited against his total tax liability for some special reason such as charitable donations

Tax Deduction: in tax law, an amount one is permitted to deduct from his taxable income for some special reason (e.g., personal exemption, etc.)

Tithe: in Hebrew scriptures, a system of obligatory ten percent offerings to the Lord

Treasure: a thing of great value, often with a connotation of large amount

Values-Based Investing: a method of investing that takes into account the moral or religious values of the investor, so that one only invests in companies whose work is consistent with those values (see also "Socially Responsible Investing")

Venture Philanthropy: a type of philanthropy in which a person infuses managerial advice and financial resources into a new or existing philanthropic effort, but without the hands-on daily direction of entrepreneurial philanthropy

Wealth: the sum of one's assets

Will: a legal document in which one expresses his wishes for the disbursement of his assets after death

Works: in theology, a term for a person's own efforts and accomplishments, in contrast to God's efforts and accomplishments