

A Reflection on the Spirit of Giving

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What motivates us to give and what accelerates our spirit of giving? Robert Louis Stevenson said, *"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."* This month we reflect on why we might want to give to the NEAFCS Endowment Fund! In a study referenced in Psychology Today, 85% of the respondents said they gave just because someone asked them. Maybe we need to find better ways to ask that motivate the spirit of giving. This story is about **planting a seed** to try to open the hearts of more of our members to support the work of the NEAFCS Endowment!



What makes people *decide* to give? Some may want to help others, make our communities a better place, or maybe a family or religious tradition. For example, some may give to the homeless because there is compassion for people living on the street, or it makes them feel good to help the needy. Someone else may remember when their family received essentials and hope at a time of need. One may give in memory of a dear teacher, mentor, colleague, or a friend. Some driving emotions that motivate people to give could be empathy, sympathy, gratitude, joy, fear, guilt, and anger. However, others give simply **because someone asked them!**

Consider these meaningful thoughts from people you may or may not know on personal benefits of giving:

- "I have found among other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver". *Maya Angelou*
- "It is in giving that we receive". *Israelmore Ayivor*
- "No one has ever become poor from giving". *Anne Frank*
- "Sometimes those who give the most are the ones with the least to spare". *Mike McIntyre*
- "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give". *Winston Churchill*
- "...The happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more. *H. Jackson Brown Jr.*
- "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others". *Booker T. Washington*
- "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth". *Mohammed Ali*
- "...It maybe a drop in the ocean... without it the ocean is missing something". *Mother Teresa*
- "It is ...an obligation to put back into the world ...what one takes out of it". *Albert Einstein*
- "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted". *Aesop*
- "Think of giving not as a duty, but as a privilege". *John D. Rockefeller Jr.*

We hope to harness the power of your trust that the endowment funds benefit you, the members, through small grants and scholarships. We also hope you are motivated, for whatever reason or by any emotion, to give according to your ability. I have given this year more out of duty to give back. Now, I feel compelled to give again this year in gratitude and memory of a dear colleague we lost from our small California Affiliate. By our gift, we honor and remember Dorina Espinosa, PhD, for her many contributions to humanity, her kindness, warmth, generosity, and gentle spirit. In her legacy, we hear Ralph Waldo Emerson saying, *"The purpose of life is not only to be happy, it is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to make some difference that you have lived and lived well."* With Gratitude!