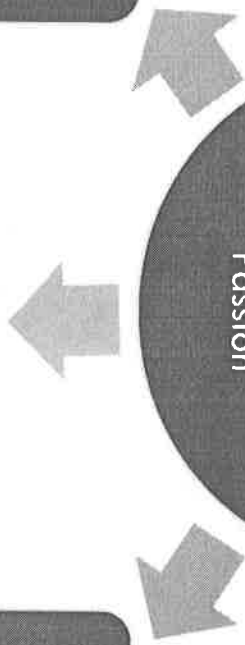
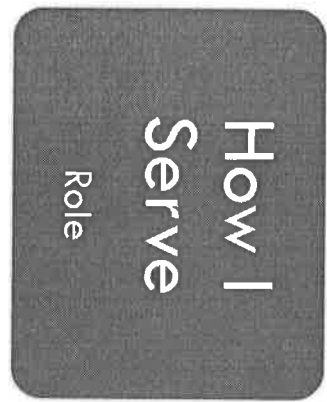
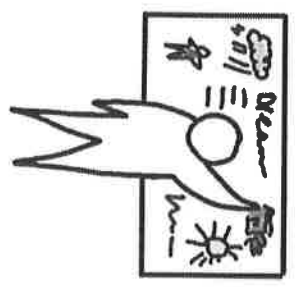


Designing Your Difference Framework



Designing the Difference You Desire to Make World

Who Am I: Purpose Exploration Questions



Childhood & Family

- My family was at its best when...
- My family was at its lowest when...
- Strong values I learned from my family include:
- Mistakes to avoid I learned from my family include:
- What were your dreams when you were a child? When did you let go of those dreams and why?
- What were your dreams in high school? When did you let go of those dreams and why?

Adult Life

- What are your natural skills and gifts?
- What skills and abilities have you gained through work and volunteer experiences?
- What hobbies and activities give you energy and/or joy?
- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- What are your passions?
- What issues evoke strong emotions (anger, frustration or sadness)?
- What causes are you interested in?
- What issues motivate you to give time or money?
- What are your current dreams?
- What things do you desire to do, but don't have time or resources?

Legacy

By the end of my life,

- I want to have achieved...
- I want to have taught my children or younger generations....
- I want to be remembered for

Summary

- My enduring values:
- My enduring dreams:
- My greatest strengths:
- My greatest passion:
- My purpose is...
- I desire to make a difference in the world by...



Directory of Charities and Nonprofit Organizations

GuideStar is the most complete source of information about U.S. charities and other nonprofit organizations there is. Search our database of more than 1.8 million IRS-recognized organizations to find a charity to support, benchmark your own nonprofit's performance, research the sector, and more.

Browse by Category

Arts, Culture and
Humanities

Education and Research

Environment and Animals

Health

Human Services

International

Public, Societal Benefit

Religion

Unknown

Arts, Culture and Humanities

Arts, culture, and humanities organizations bring the performing arts to the public; preserve and commemorate the events, places, and cultures that created and continue to shape the nation; and promote the distribution of ideas. They range from internationally renowned art museums to small historical societies, major theatrical venues to charities that bring the arts into schools to promote scholastic achievement, and major broadcasting services to local-access radio and TV.

Education and Research

Education nonprofits promote learning and intellectual development from cradle to grave, from preschools through post-graduate schools and adult learning programs. They also include schools for students with special needs, organizations offering vocational and technical training, libraries, literacy programs, scholarships, student organizations, and parent-teacher groups.

The research category comprises science, technology, and social science institutes. A nonprofit in this category may focus on astronomy, chemistry, or other physical science; engineering; computer science; marine biology, physiology, or other biological science; anthropology, economics, international law, political science, or other social science; or interdisciplinary fields, such as black studies, ethnic studies, gerontology, labor studies, and urban studies.

Environment and Animals

Environmental organizations are dedicated to reclaiming and preserving natural resources and to beautifying the world around us. They range from recycling programs to wetlands management to garden clubs.

Animal nonprofits include humane societies and SPCAs, bird and wildlife sanctuaries, fisheries, veterinary organizations, zoos, and animal-training nonprofits.

Health

Health nonprofits cover a broad range of organizations concerned with the body or mind. Hospitals, substance abuse and additional treatment programs, diseases and disease research, medical disciplines and specialty research, and mental health and crisis services all fall into this category.

Human Services

Human service nonprofits are the organizations that most people think of when they hear the word *nonprofit*. They feed the hungry, assist crime victims and offenders, provide job training, house the homeless, help people prepare for and recover from disasters, maintain playgrounds and athletic fields, act as advocates for children, and offer programs to help youth mature into adults who contribute to society.

International

International organizations focus their efforts outside U.S. borders. Development relief organizations, human rights advocates, peace and security nonprofits, and organizations that promote international understanding all fall into this category.

Public, Societal Benefit

Public and societal benefit nonprofits work in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties, community improvement, philanthropy and volunteerism, and voter education and registration. They also include life insurance providers, unemployment compensation organizations, pension and retirement funds, fraternal groups, employee associations, and cemeteries.

Religion

Religious organizations encompass houses of worship for the world's major religions, including Christianity—both Protestantism and Catholicism—Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Religious print and broadcast nonprofits as well as organizations dedicated to interfaith issues also fall into this category.

Unknown

Nonprofits in this category have not been classified by the IRS, nor have they provided GuideStar with information about the type of work they do. Any nonprofit listed in this section is welcome to update its information on GuideStar through the [GuideStar Nonprofit Profile](#). There is no charge for updating.

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Description of Roles

Administrator: provides needed infrastructure support behind the scenes (example is bookkeeper, office manager).

Advocate: publicly supports a cause by increasing awareness of the issues surrounding the cause and seeking policy change and other means of support.

Board Member: serves in governance role to ensure the organization serves public interest; efficiently stewards resources and has the support it needs to continue.

Connector: strategically networks to connect people (or companies) with diverse resources to an organization or cause.

Encourager: intentionally provides needed inspiration to people in need, staff and/or volunteers. Can be done through words or acts of kindness.

Fundraiser: influences others to give to cause whether through special event, campaign or general recruitment of donors.

Philanthropist: intentionally, thoughtfully and consistently gives to single or multiple causes. Dollar amount does not matter.

Pioneer: led to start organization or initiative not currently taking place.

Professional: makes transition from volunteer role to fulltime staff. May involve change from private sector to nonprofit.

Servant (Volunteer): willingly serves wherever needed most.

Teacher: shares knowledge and expertise to staff, volunteers or people in need.



Designing Your Difference Resource List

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – great articles & research on several causes

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/>

Bridgespan Group – Job board, articles on nonprofit sector, including effective organizations & client impact stories

<https://www.bridgespan.org/>

Charity Navigator – Guide to intelligent giving, including tips for donors

<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

The Foundation Center

<https://foundationcenter.org/>

Guidestar by Candid - Directory of charities and nonprofit organizations

<https://www.guidestar.org/NonprofitDirectory.aspx>

Idealist – National & international jobs, internships, volunteering, organizations, groups & grad schools

<https://www.idealist.org/en/>

United Way

<https://www.unitedway.org/#>

Volunteers of America

<https://www.voa.org/volunteer>

Evaluating Your Season - Reflection Questions



1. Most of the time, I feel overwhelmed and have no free time.
2. My current priority is my career, children or parents.
3. If I made adjustments in my life, I could create more time to devote to making a difference.
4. I am in a time of transition—changing careers, retiring, empty nest or some other significant reduction in responsibility.
5. My significant other supports me in my desires.
6. It will take time to get support from my significant other.
7. I am free as a bird!

Matching Season & Level of Involvement

Once you examined your current season, you will have a clear idea of your capacity for involvement. Level 1 represents lower engagement and a lower investment of time, energy & resources. Level 5 represents the highest level of engagement and investment.

