

Sample Data Collection Questions

"The marvelous thing about a good question is that it shapes our identity as much by the asking as it does by the answering." —David White, Poet

1. When do you remember giving first being part of your family's experience?
2. What were the stories or messages you heard about philanthropy from our parents or grandparents?
3. What were the values articulated around your family dinner table?
4. How were those values expressed? What did philanthropy look like?
5. Is giving part of a larger narrative about wealth in your family? How did your parents or grandparents talk about their wealth with you?
6. Do you think your parents' / grandparents' / foundation's philanthropy reflects their values?
7. What has been the impact of their giving?
8. What do you imagine your parents' / grandparents' / foundation's legacy could be?
9. What are your values? What drives you?
10. When did you first become involved in giving or volunteerism?
11. Given all that's on your plate, how have you been involved in giving or volunteerism lately? What has that looked like?
12. What organizations or people have been important in your life?
13. How does your personal giving fit (or not fit) with your family's giving?
14. Given the chance, would you like to participate in some sort of collaborative family philanthropy? If yes, what would you hope that would look like?
15. What are your fears around it? What are the barriers to success here?
16. What would you like to learn in the course of this experience?
17. What legacy would you like to leave in the world?
18. What else should I know that I haven't yet asked?