

## Giving Families

Many families are interested in teaching their children the value of giving, but they don't always know the best way to do it. According to Susan Crites Price, author of [\*The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others\*](#) (Council on Foundations, 2001), it's important to start early since habits of giving begin at a young age. Here is what she recommends:

**Make giving the rule, rather than the exception.** "We make kids brush their teeth because it's good for them. We also need to make them give and serve -- because *that's* good for them, too."

**Show and tell.** "While kids may see us volunteering and writing checks to causes we care about, we should also tell them *why* we are doing it."

**Let them lead.** "If we let children decide for themselves how to give their time or their money, they are more likely to enjoy it." It's good to give them ideas, of course, but better to let them choose.

**Find volunteer projects.** There are plenty of places to volunteer -- schools, community groups, religious organizations, clubs, and more. Try [www.helpindyonline.com](http://www.helpindyonline.com) or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).

**Tie it to something they can see.** It makes a better impression when you show kids what they're giving to, and why.

**Consider ways to give more.** While no donation is too small, some parents will match what their child wants to give, sending the charity a more meaningful amount.

**Take the time to do it.** Kids and parents are busy people. "Be intentional about the family giving," Price recommends. "Make time for it. Make it a priority."