

Exercise 5.3
How Much Will You Give During Your Lifetime?

10 minutes

First, note how much money you gave to nonprofits last year or, if you prefer, start with the figure you decided to give in Exercise 5.2. Multiply that amount by the number of years you expect to continue to live (for example, if your life expectancy is eighty-eight and you are forty-eight now, multiply your giving by forty years). The total represents your future giving.

\$ _____ × _____ = \$ _____
Your giving last year Years left of life expectancy Future giving

Add to that an estimate of how much you've given up till now. The result shows your total giving during your lifetime:

\$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____
Future giving Giving to date Lifetime giving

Now consider what percentage of your assets (for example, 10 to 50 percent) you will direct to be given to nonprofits you care about after your death. Estimate the value that percentage will translate into and add that amount to your total lifetime giving.

\$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____
Lifetime giving Value of gifts from estate All gifts during life and after death

Finally, consider how much giving you might influence in your lifetime through your own fundraising and by inspiring other givers by your example and add that to the total to get a truer sense of your total impact.

\$ _____
Lifetime fundraising