

Step 1: Discover Your GIVING Mission



A personal reflection guide to focus your giving in Middle Tennessee

Before choosing where or how to give, take a moment to reflect on what matters most to you. This worksheet helps you define your unique giving mission, one that reflects your lived experiences, values, and the change you want to see in your local community. It's the first step in using [GivingMatters.com](https://givingmatters.com) with confidence and purpose.

What Inspires You to Give?

Your values, story, and perspective are powerful. Use these questions to explore what has shaped your view of the world:

- *What life experiences have influenced the issues or causes you deeply care about?*
- *Who in your life has modeled generosity, justice, or community impact?*
- *What are your top three values that guide your actions?*

Write a few notes here to capture what comes up for you.

A large, light green speech bubble with a thin green border, intended for the user to write their reflections.

Where Will You Focus Your Impact?

Now start translating those reflections into direction. [GivingMatters.com](https://givingmatters.com) can help you explore nonprofits that align with your focus.

- *What community challenges resonate with you the most?*
(e.g., Affordable Housing, Child Care Access, Parks and Green Spaces, Workforce Readiness, Food Security, Positive Youth Development, Mental Health Wellness, Arts, etc.)?
- *Are there specific populations you feel the greatest connection with?*
(e.g., youth, immigrants, rural families, seniors, individuals with disabilities)
- *Where do you want your giving to make an impact?*
(e.g., Nashville, Middle Tennessee, specific neighborhoods, statewide, etc.)



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How would you like to support your focus area?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ **Programs that provide direct services**
- ☐ **Leadership capacity building (supporting nonprofit infrastructure)**
- ☐ **Policy and advocacy**
- ☐ **Scholarships or supporting individuals**
- ☐ **Community events**
- ☐ **Operating support**
- ☐ **Other:** _____

Do you prefer to support smaller, promising organizations or larger, more established ones?

What kind of change do you hope to see as a result of your giving?

(e.g., Increased graduation rates, safer neighborhoods, more families in stable housing, etc.)

Use the [GivingMatters.com Impact Map](https://givingmatters.com/impact-map) to explore nonprofit profiles based on the communities that resonate with you.

Write Your GIVING Mission

Now, put it together. Based upon your answers, draft a one- to three-sentence focus statement that summarizes what matters to you and where you want to focus your giving.

Examples:

- *To support mental wellness in rural Tennessee by funding nonprofits that provide healing spaces for youth and families.*
- *Our family will focus our giving on increasing access to the arts for communities in Davidson County that have been historically excluded from cultural experiences.*
- *To honor my late father's legacy, I will invest in community-based programs serving veterans in Middle Tennessee.*

Reading to act on your mission?

Continue to **Step 2: Ask the Right Questions** to start connecting with nonprofits and learning more about their work in your focus area.