



the family values toolkit

For Children Ages 14 to 18

This Month's Featured Value Is: **Generosity**

Generous people freely give or share what they value--such as possessions, money, time, or love--in a positive spirit. Giving makes them feel good, not deprived or resentful. Generosity is tied closely to empathy, since the reward for behaving generously is often the satisfaction of making someone happy.



What Can Parents Do to Nurture This Important Value?

First, Set Goals:

Let teens take charge of their own acts of generosity, but help them recognize when they've taken on too much.

Practically all teenagers will be extremely generous to someone. They're often idealistic and able to put another's needs ahead of their own. Some belong to religious or school groups that organize clothing or food drives for local charities; others are generous mostly with their closest friends.

As they move toward adulthood, however, teenagers typically begin to develop a balanced approach to giving. They realize that they have to apportion their resources and are more discerning about how much they can realistically give.

Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Encourage your teen to join peer counseling in school.** This is a great way for young adults to learn to mentor other kids, as opposed to thinking mainly about their own concerns.
- ✓ **Volunteer some of your own time to a local charity,** and offer your teen the opportunity to participate with you. Stress how good you feel doing service in the community, and how important the tradition is to your family.
- ✓ **Encourage teens to participate in service projects.** Donate goods or services when they ask you to. Make it easy for teens to continue in religious or social youth groups by scheduling family activities around their schedules.

Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @

responsibilityproject.com/familyvalues