

Philanthropy at Work

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Ohhh... the joy of giving. Well, it is, indeed, a joy to give. Give a compliment. Give someone a helping hand. Give sage advice. It seems nowadays, more and more people are looking to give, than to receive. And that's a good thing. Actually... correction: that's a *great* thing.

But what about giving in your business? I'm not just talking about a monetary donation to your local Knights of Columbus or Little League team – that's great, and those organizations count on local business' donations to thrive. I'm referring to giving of one's self and time to a worthy cause that will impact a person or a group in a profound way.

Such measures in philanthropy can go a very long way, not only in helping the community, but in team-building and morale-boosting for your employees as well. You don't have to be a non-profit to get in the spirit of giving. As your team's leader, you set the tone on what culture you'd like your business to follow.

Here are 3 tips to motivate your team, and get them in the spirit of philanthropy:

- 1. Ask them to each come up with 2-3 causes that are meaningful to them and present opportunities for your company to volunteer services or donate time*
- 2. Challenge your team members to get involved in individual causes in their spare time – maybe 3 hours a week or 10 hours a month.*
- 3. Have each staff member chose a cause that your company can donate to throughout the year, i.e. book drives; clothing drives; food drives; supply drives*

After just a few months of sharing ideas, you'll find that your team is motivated and excited about the prospect of giving! The end result is a win-win all around; not only are you collectively helping worthy causes, but being philanthropic just feels good.