



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

Family Giving Online Knowledge Center Board Activities and Training Procedures

TITLE: Questions To Ask About The Legacy Of Your Founder

SOURCE: Voyage of Discovery: A Planning Workbook for Philanthropic Families

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QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE LEGACY OF YOUR FOUNDER

1. What were the philanthropic interests of our founder as exhibited by his or her personal philanthropy while living?
2. What written instructions were left as to the wishes of the founder? Are these legally binding?
3. How did the founder interact with the culture of his or her time? What was the nature of his personality? Would she have wanted the current board or family members to respond to current needs if she were alive? Would he want to continue supporting the organizations he gave to when living? And, are those organizations still viable or even in existence?
4. Beyond giving, what gave meaning to the founder's life? How could these interests be honored in the philanthropic work of the family?