



CAPSTONE PROJECT:
IDEAS AND WAYS
TO ENGAGAE IN
SOCIAL JUSTICE
PHILANTHROPY

THE FIRST STEP IN SELECTING THE CAPSTONE PROJECT THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU IS FIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO GET INVOLVED BY ASSESSING WHAT EXISTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, WHAT THE NEED IS, AND HOW YOU CAN POSITION YOURSELF TO BEST SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS DOING GREAT WORK.

Capstone projects are a nice way for participants to apply their learning. We recommend that participants pursue capstone projects after they've developed a working understanding of social justice and philanthropy. Below you'll find a variety of project ideas and resources that will require varying levels of knowledge and skill. We've ordered the list according to level of sophistication and intensity. The year-long program that inspired this toolkit included a grantmaking capstone, in which participants issued a Request for Proposals to advance the Andrus Family Fund's mission and commitment to social justice philanthropy. For shorter programs, we recommend pursuing "lighter" capstone options.





1. FUNDRAISING

Individual donations can be a valuable source of “unrestricted funding” — funds that are not reserved for an explicit purpose. This source of income can provide nonprofit organizations with the flexibility they need to invest in things they value most. Participants may contribute to social justice issues they care about by soliciting donations for a nonprofit organization in their community.

2. ASSET MAPPING

Take some time to have your participants reflect on the following questions:

1. How can you leverage existing relationships and cultivate a network of support to advance social justice?
 - Can you activate your personal networks to support the capacity of a nonprofit organization you are passionate about?
 - Hint: Think financial resources, supplies, staff or volunteers, etc.
2. What impact do you think you can have?
3. Define a vision of success
4. Create an action plan
5. Capture your journey in a way that feels meaningful to you

To do a more in-depth asset map in your community, check out this resource on mapping: <http://bit.ly/Asset-Mapping>

TO READ MORE ABOUT THE YEAR-LONG PROGRAM WITH THE ANDRUS FAMILY FUND, INCLUDING THE GRANTMAKING CAPSTONE PROJECT, READ THIS ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY TWO OF THE PARTICIPANTS:

http://bit.ly/GrantCraft_NextGen-Phil

3. VOLUNTEERISM

One way for participants to act on their commitment to social justice is to donate their time, passion and/or skills to a nonprofit organization they believe in. Here are a couple of resources to help them find the right opportunity:

- <http://www.idealists.org/info/Volunteer>
- <https://www.volunteermatch.org/volunteers/resources/>

4. BOARD SERVICE

All nonprofits have a Board of Directors that support the organization's operations, strategic planning, and fundraising activities. The role of Board members vary by organization, as does the way each Board operates. To learn more about Board Service and what it entails, visit

<http://www.idealists.org/info/Volunteer/Board>

5. GRANTMAKING

This capstone project represents an opportunity for program participants to practice social justice philanthropy. Participants will execute a grant-making program (dollar amount to be specified by individual foundations) to advance the foundation's mission to engage in social justice philanthropy.

- Participants will work together to achieve the following objectives:
 - Articulate a vision for the group's grant-making portfolio including crafting a statement of purpose and designing a Request for Proposal (RFP);
 - Design a democratic decision-making process for vetting potential partners' proposals;
 - Award funds to nonprofit partners with support and approval from the foundation's Board of Directors and staff members.

This will require participants to collaborate on the following activities:

- Creating a Request for Proposals (RFP) that clearly defines the group's vision for impact and its criteria for awarding grant funds;
- Disseminating the RFP to nonprofit organizations eligible to receive grant funding;
- Reviewing proposals and engaging applicants in follow up conversations to inform grant-making decisions;
- Identifying 1-3 grantees that the group wishes to fund;
- Presenting these recommendations to the foundation's Board of Directors;
- Communicating outcomes of grant-awards decisions to RFP applicants.

JUSTICE

