

**MODULE 1:**  
**PHILANTHROPY 101**  
**(AN INTRODUCTION**  
**TO PHILANTHROPY)**

**“PHILANTHROPY, WHEN  
TAKEN SERIOUSLY, CALLS  
FOR EMOTION GUIDED BY  
REASON, ACTION GUIDED  
BY THOUGHT.”**

—Peyton & Moody, “Understanding Philanthropy”



## CONTEXT

---

This module is designed to help participants explore the practice and legacy of philanthropy in both an individual and a cultural context. This lays the groundwork for participants to understand how privilege can position them to act philanthropically, how their identity and experience can shape their philanthropic engagement, and how their commitment to advancing social justice might introduce new questions about how they'll practice philanthropy.

## OBJECTIVES

---

- Participants understand philanthropy as a “multiplicity”
- Participants can describe how they benefit from and can engage in philanthropy
- Participants can evaluate philanthropic tradition as an expression of society’s values and norms

## READINGS & RESOURCES

---

Payton, Robert L. & Moody, Michael P. *Understanding Philanthropy: Its Meaning and Mission*. Indiana University Press, 2008. (Excerpts from introduction)

Key facts on U.S. foundations and grantmaking trends can be found on Foundation Center’s website at: [http://bit.ly/FoundationCenter\\_Facts](http://bit.ly/FoundationCenter_Facts)





## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLYING THIS MODULE

- This module intersects with the topics explored in the Social Justice 101 module (Module 2). After participants have a solid understanding of what philanthropy is and how philanthropy interacts with non-profits, move on to the Social Justice 101 module to explore the concept of privilege and how their commitment to advancing social justice might introduce new questions about how they'll practice philanthropy.
- We recommend assigning a pre-reading in advance of facilitating the exercises below. At a minimum, participants should read excerpts from the introduction of Moody and Payton's "Understanding Philanthropy: Its Meaning and Mission."
- This module is recommended for the beginning of participant's journey.
- The content provided in this module can be stretched out over two 60-minute sessions with participants. One session can be spent defining terms and exploring the concepts discussed in this module, and the second session can be spent on self-reflection and sharing with the "Philanthropic Autobiography" activity.
- For the first couple of modules, you may want to assign pre-readings and check in with participants to see what feels manageable to them. All of the readings included in this toolkit can be excerpted, and the exercises were designed for participants reading with various levels of depth.





# DEFINING KEY TERMS



It will be important for participants to have a basic knowledge of the philanthropic sector and its history before they can explore the application of social justice values to the practice. Below are some general terms that participants will need to be familiar with to ground their readings and sessions moving forward. You can have participants read these definitions independently and or you can review each one as a group and identify a few examples of each.

## FOUNDATIONS

---

### PUBLIC CHARITY

A nongovernmental, nonprofit organization that receives financial support from a broad segment of the general public through donations or the sale of services that further its mission. This includes religious, educational and medical institutions as well as community foundations.

*(Council on Foundations)*

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A community foundation is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, autonomous, publicly supported, philanthropic institution composed primarily of permanent funds established by many separate donors living in a defined geographic area. Typically, a community foundation serves an area no larger than a state. There are more than 750 community foundations across the United States today.

*(Council on Foundations)*

### PRIVATE FOUNDATION

A nongovernmental, nonprofit organization with funds (usually from a single source, such as a individual, family or corporation) and program managed by its own trustees or directors, established to maintain or aid social, educational, religious or other charitable activities serving the common welfare, primarily through grantmaking. *(Council on Foundations)*





## OPERATING FOUNDATION

Private foundations that use the bulk of their income to provide charitable services or to run charitable programs of their own. They make few, if any, grants to outside organizations.

*(Council on Foundations)*

## CORPORATE FOUNDATION

Private foundations that derive grantmaking funds primarily from the contributions of a profit-making business. The company-sponsored foundation often maintains close ties with the donor company, but it is a separate, legal organization, sometimes with its own endowment, and is subject to the same rules and regulations as other private foundations. *(Council on Foundations)*

## ENDOWMENT

The principal amount of gifts and bequests of a foundation. *(Council on Foundations)*

## GRANT

An award of funds to an organization or individual to undertake charitable activities.

*(Council on Foundations)*

## PROGRAM OFFICER

Also referred to as a corporate affairs officer, program associate, public affairs officer or community affairs officer, a program officer is a staff member of a foundation or corporate giving program who may do some or all of the following: solicit and review grant requests, recommend policy, manage budgets and process applications for funding.

*(Council on Foundations)*



## NONPROFITS

Organizations which exist to take direct actions to advance the public good. While this includes Foundations, the term is often used to refer to organizations that seek grants from foundations.

These include:

### DIRECT SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofits that provide services directly to individuals and communities

### ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that advocate on behalf of certain communities or groups of people



# DEFINING PHILANTHROPY



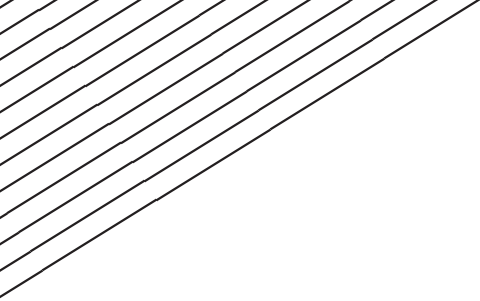


Assign a short pre-reading from Peyton & Moody’s “Understanding Philanthropy” in advance of facilitating the exercises below. If participants have interest in learning more, you may consider referring them to the full introduction (pg. 1-26).

Begin the discussion by offering Peyton and Moody’s definition of philanthropy: “voluntary action for the public good”. Ask the participants to describe what this means to them in their own terms:

- Check for understanding of philanthropy as encompassing a broad range of activities including: service and advocacy as well as financial contributions and contributions of goods.
- Check for understanding that individuals can engage both personally and professionally in philanthropy.
- Check for understanding that philanthropy can be carried out by a broad range of organizations, from direct service providers to research and educational institutions, advocacy groups, or arts institutions.





Direct participants to Peyton and Moody's assertion that in philanthropy: "There are motivations involved, values, a purpose, and an implied justification for voluntary action." Ask the participants to identify an example of when they engaged in philanthropy and describe what motivations and justifications were associated with their actions.

Take note of any references made to social justice material covered to date. You can return to the concepts of privilege, equity, oppression at the end of this module in exercise 3. At that time, you may want to ask participants to return to these examples and identify where social justice concepts come into play.

*Optional: Introduce the philanthropic autobiography exercise as an extension of this conversation. This can be assigned as during a group meeting and/or independently.*



WORKERS UNITED IN ACTION  
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE.



TRABAJADORES UNIDOS EN ACCIÓN

BUE... RTES  
TRABA... RTES

unction Blv.  
N.Y. 11368  
-2665

NIKE

S NO Reforma S





# PHILANTHROPIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY



Introduce the notion that a philanthropic action can be seen as an expression of self. Remind participants of the goals for this program — both as learning and as self-discovery. Introduce the notion of a “philanthropic autobiography,” which is referenced by Tye & Moody in the full Introduction of the *Understanding Philanthropy* text. Encourage participants to reflect on the questions they pose below:

- Where did you develop your interest in philanthropy?
- What are the origins of the values that bring you to philanthropy?
- Where did you get your sentiments and attitudes and ways of thinking about others?
- What are the stories you have to tell about your philanthropic life?
- Do you see yourself as a “giver” of philanthropy? A receiver?

Ask participants to tell the story of their philanthropic journey to date. This can be done in any and all media: straight narration, poetry, drawing, visual/video representation, etc. Based on dynamics of the group and time constraints of the program, you can have participants share their stories or you can collect them directly.

Note: This exercise can be completed again at the end of the program to help participants reflect on their growth over the course of this journey.





**FINAL**  
**REFLECTION**  
**ON**  
**PHILANTHROPIC**  
**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**



Ask participants to think about the example they gave in the Philanthropic Autobiography exercise when they described a time they acted philanthropically. Challenge the participants to think about whether they can see where social justice concepts show up in that example.



