



## Cha-Ching Family Activity Charity

**Overview:** Children enjoy learning that they can make a positive difference in other people’s lives. They can help others by donating money, time, items, and talents. Giving to others, whether it is money or service, can improve communities, make a difference in the world, and have a positive impact on both the receiver and the giver. Encouraging donating as a habit early in life encourages the development of caring, empathy, and kindness. Having the compassion to care for others and making a positive difference in the lives of others can be just as satisfying as using money to buy for oneself.

**Activity Duration:** Varies

### Outcome

- Students will explore ways they can make a positive impact on other people’s lives and connect each way to the choices we have with the way we spend our money.

### Materials

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Copy of *Making a Difference*

### Procedure

1. Begin the activity by asking your child to share what he/she knows about donating. If possible, discuss different ways you and/or your family donate to help others in the community. Ask, “What are some different ways to donate? Why is donating important?”
2. WATCH the video [Charity](#) with your child.
3. DISCUSS how the characters decided to help others.
  - What was your favorite “donate” example? Why?
  - What did Charity do with her extra money?
  - What ways did the band help others that didn’t involve money?
  - Why did the characters help other people?
  - How did it make them feel?
4. TOGETHER, talk about ways your family could help others.
  - What things are important to you and your family? What are you passionate about? (For example, animals, gardening, sports, cooking, reading, arts or crafts, etc.)
  - Are there organizations in your community that support these interests?
  - How might you use your interests to help others?



## Money Smart Kids!

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- What services could you donate?
  - What items could you donate?
  - Is donating money an option?
5. CREATE a family plan to make a difference.
- By using the *Making a Difference* handout, talk as a family about who you would like to help and why. Then, create a plan to help others in your community.
  - First, list organizations that your family could support. Brainstorm things they might need and ways your family could help. Agree as a family on how you'd like to help. By pairing a fun activity with giving, they're more likely to want to do it again. (Remember, you don't have to always donate money to make a difference, you can also make a difference by donating your time or talents.) For example:
    - Local animal shelters often need food and toys for the animals living there. The animals also need someone to walk them and play with them. Your family could help by organizing a food and toy drive as well as volunteering to walk and play with the animals on a regular basis.
    - Look for need in the news. Save newspapers so that everyone can read a front page and circle areas of need. Have a discussion about how they might be able to help and create a plan for helping. See if there is an established charity that already supports that cause.
    - Homeless shelters are always in need of items for their residents. Go through closets and donate gently-used items that are too small or that you no longer use.
    - Community gardens often welcome people to help care for the plants.
    - Raise money for local charities by hosting a lemonade stand and donating all of the profits. Or by signing up for a Charitable Race (good for a family being together and fitness!)
    - Visit a local senior center. Whether by participating in a game of bingo or singing together, young and old will benefit.
    - Joining forces can have a big impact. Invite neighborhood children to your home, a local park or a community center to participate in a service project. Use the web to research the needs of local service groups.
    - What other ideas can you think of?
6. VOTE to decide which organization your family will start with. Remember, you don't have to choose just one, the other ideas can be implemented later.
- Contact the charity and ask how your family can help. Decide on a date or time frame and go!
  - After your family has volunteered, discuss how it made each family member feel.
    - Does *donate* mean the same thing to you now as it did before doing this activity? What has changed?
    - Was the impact of your donation positive or negative for the person on the receiving side? What about the impact on you, the donor? How was it? Why?
    - What were the most important things you learned from doing this activity?



## **Additional Resources**

- [The Family Dinner Project: Giving Tuesday](#)
  - [Tips to Talk About Giving](#)
  - [Deciding How to Give Back](#)
- [PBS: Family Guide to Volunteering](#)



## Making a Difference

List organizations that your family could support, things they might need, and ways your family could help.

Organization	Things They Need	Ideas to Help

To Do List: