

Family Giving Circle

ABOUT



Center for FAMILY
PHILANTHROPY
GREATER HOUSTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Family Giving Circle & Youth Leadership Team

The Family Giving Circle is a year-long grantmaking program designed for **5th- to 12th-graders in Houston**, fostering philanthropy, leadership, and community engagement.

Participants gain valuable insights into the Houston nonprofit sector, community needs and opportunities, as well as exposure to best practices in grantmaking. They connect with community-minded peers and engage in meaningful philanthropic efforts.

The program is led by the 11th- and 12th-grade members, the Youth Leadership Team, who guide the group. Through the Family Giving Circle, young people are empowered to expand their generosity, strengthen their leadership abilities, and gain a deeper understanding of how to contribute to positive change within their communities.

Who should be involved?

We are looking for involved and engaged youth who want to make a difference and become community leaders. This leadership opportunity is a great way for youth to develop their values, independent thinking, decision-making power, community knowledge, and leadership skills.

Throughout the school year, Family Giving Circle participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of making grants to nonprofits.
- Develop deeper relationships with nonprofits in the Houston area.
- Learn about various issues affecting Houston and surrounding communities.
- Connect with an active peer group from different schools and communities in Houston.
- Become leaders in their own families and schools.

Family Giving Circle: Participant Expectations

- **Join us for the journey.** Attend at least 3 of the 4 core meetings, plus the kickoff.
- **Get hands-on as a family.** Join at least one volunteer day for hands-on service, with possibility to earn over 25 hours of volunteer hours.
- **Lead volunteering experience for families.** Participate and lead activities on Family Philanthropy Day for 50-100 attendees of all ages.
- **Learn from inspiring organizations.** Attend one nonprofit site visit to learn from local organizations.
- **Be present and engaged.** Come ready to listen, ask questions, and engage respectfully.

Price & How to Join

- Children and grandchildren of Community Foundation fundholders are welcome to join the Family Giving Circle.
- Each family contributes \$2,000 from their donor advised fund to a shared grant pool.

Additional opportunities for participating families include:

- Quarterly family volunteer programs (for children ages 5+).
- Donor education and learning events for adults who want to deepen their giving experience.



Family Giving Circle

2026 - 2027 CALENDAR



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Family Giving Circle Meeting
Community Foundation Event

Friday, August 28: 2026-2027 Family Giving Circle Kickoff

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Location TBD | All Family Members Invited

Begin your Family Giving Circle journey by connecting with other families, exploring this year's "Houston neighbors helping neighbors" theme, and discovering how you'll make an impact together.

Saturday, September 19: Quarterly Volunteer Day

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Blackwood Skyfarm | All Family Members Invited

Roll up your sleeves and serve alongside your family while learning how food access and sustainability strengthen communities across Houston.

Sunday, October 18: Understanding Neighborhood Needs + Community Strengths

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Greater Houston Community Foundation | Students-Only Required

Explore what makes neighborhoods thrive as you learn to listen, identify community strengths, and begin shaping your collective giving priorities.

Saturday, November 7: Family Philanthropy Day

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Fabric Forge | All Family Members Invited

Experience the power of giving in action through a hands-on service project alongside local partners working to build stronger, more resilient neighborhoods.

Sunday, January 24, 2027: From Learning to Grantmaking

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Greater Houston Community Foundation | Students-Only Required

Step into the role of a grant maker—review nonprofits and choose the finalists making meaningful change.

Saturday, February 20, 2027: Quarterly Volunteer Day

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Location TBD | All Family Members Invited

Deepen your understanding of community challenges while seeing firsthand how nonprofits create immediate relief and long-term opportunity.

February - March 2027: Site Visits

Time & Locations TBD | All Family Members Invited

Go behind the scenes to meet nonprofit leaders and experience the impact of your potential grant partners.

Sunday, April 4, 2027: Final Grantee Selection + Celebration

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Location TBD | All Family Members Invited

Celebrate by making the final grant decisions and honor the difference you've made in the community.

Saturday, April 24, 2027: Quarterly Volunteer Day

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Location TBD | All Family Members Invited

Join us for another opportunity to serve, reflect, and carry forward your family's commitment to giving back.

Contact

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