

Social Issues in Management and Business Ethics: Exercises and Activities

Exercise/Activity Title:

Philanthropy and Volunteerism

Exercise/Activity Explanation (150 words or less):

Companies should set aside some of their community giving resources to support the local United Way or some other highly credible organization that monitors the disbursement of donations. International outsourcing organizations provide donors with a broad range of social projects or individual recipients to fund.

Students review the local United Way Volunteer Opportunities website and hypothetically choose a volunteer opportunity that they, or a team at work, would like to volunteer their time helping. Students also review the Kiva.org website for opportunities that they, or a team at work, could help with a small micro-loan.

Assignment is on the following page.

Optional – Contact Information:

If interested in additional information, please contact Professor Denis Collins, School of Business, Edgewood College, Madison, WI; **dcollins@edgewood.edu**

Philanthropy and Volunteerism

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Companies should set aside some of their community giving resources to support the local United Way or some other highly credible organization that monitors the disbursement of donations. International outsourcing organizations provide donors with a broad range of social projects or individual recipients to fund.

The United Way:

- The United Way performs community needs assessments and ensures that nonprofit recipients appropriately manage donations.
- Browse the United Way of Dane County, Wisconsin website at www.unitedwaydane.org
- Go to the United Way of Dane County volunteerism page at <http://www.volunteeryourtime.org/>
- Click on "search" in the upper right hand corner. A list of 15 pages worth of volunteer opportunities will appear.
- Review the list and pick one volunteer activity that would interest you if you had more time to take on a volunteer activity.
- Share your choice with another teammate. Explain why you would want to do an activity like that.

Kiva.org

- Kiva is a person-to-person microloan lending website that links donors to developing nation entrepreneurs unable to obtain loans from regular banking institutions.
- Technically, this is not a donation because the money is being loaned to the recipient with the intent of repayment.
- The donor browses entrepreneur profiles, selects one, and sends the money to Kiva, which then deposits the money with a nearby microfinance institution.

- The entrepreneur pays interest to the microfinance institution managing the loan.
- The microfinance institution also offers the entrepreneur training and other assistance.
- After the entrepreneur pays back the loan, the donor can reissue another loan to the entrepreneur, lend the money to a different entrepreneur, or withdraw the funds.
- Browse the Kiva website at www.kiva.org.
- Then click "find a borrower" tab on the bottom right.
- Then click "browse all loans"
- If you want, you can type in the name of a country.
- Review the list and pick one potential borrower that would interest you if you had more income to lend the person.
- Share your choice with another teammate. Explain why you would lend money to that particular person.