



IUPUI THE FUND RAISING SCHOOL

LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

THE PHILANTHROPIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The Philanthropic Autobiography is an opportunity to think consciously about our involvement with philanthropy, volunteerism, and the nonprofit sector. It is our opportunity to reflect on how we come to experience and learn about philanthropy, what philanthropy means to us and what motivates us to volunteer our time and give our money and expertise for the primary benefit of others. Please reflect on the following questions and write a brief philanthropic autobiography. You can complete a more detailed philanthropic autobiography over time as you take additional opportunities for reflection.

What was your earliest experience or memory of giving and volunteering?	
What are some of the ways you or your family has benefited from philanthropy?	
What are some of the key philanthropic acts of others that are memorable to you?	
Who are some of the philanthropic role models that have influenced your life? What about their philanthropy appealed to you?	
Reflect on a gift that you've given. How did it come about? How did you feel?	

<p>Reflect on a memorable gift that you've received. How did it come about? How did you feel?</p>	
<p>What motivates you to give and/or volunteer?</p>	
<p>How did you become interested in working in the sector or doing organized philanthropy?</p>	
<p>Reflect on a time early in your life when you asked others to support a cause. How did it turn out? How did you feel?</p>	
<p>What does philanthropy mean to you?</p>	

After you've reflected on and responded to each question, read through your answers looking for themes. Themes could be topics, ideas, and/or feelings that are reoccur in your reflection. What connects your previous experiences with philanthropy? Summarize your philanthropic autobiography in a short paragraph.



The Ethical Will

We usually think of a will as a document used to pass on to others our material possessions at the end of our life. The Ethical Will is an opportunity to pass on to our children and the next generation the values that matter most to us, those things in which we believe deeply and have tried to model in our lives. Writing an ethical will is an opportunity to examine our lives to see how closely our actions match our beliefs. Please take a few minutes to reflect on the following questions and develop a statement of the values you hope to pass on to others. What you write can be a personal, reflective document, one that will be a commitment to yourself, or you may wish to share it with a colleague as a means of expressing your vision and mission in your professional life. The objective is to identify the values that govern our ethical behavior and structure our personal and professional lives. The following questions will help you get started:

- 1) What values have been most influential in your personal and professional life?

- 2) How do you want to be remembered by your colleagues, family, and community? What legacy do you wish to leave behind?

- 3) What values of yours do you think will be especially useful to the next generation?

- 4) What aspects of the way you live your personal and professional life would you want your children, grandchildren, and colleagues to continue?

- 5) How can philanthropy help you accomplish these goals? What causes best reflect your values and interests?