



My children are five and seven. They already know I'm not a chef, an artist or an editor. Right now, I'm known for burnt pots, stick figure drawings and long, rambling life lessons. Some legacy, huh? In time, though, what I hope they'll remember me for is teaching them the value of giving.

As my children have gotten older, we've started giving birthdays a twist. Every other year, the kids pick a charity to learn about, visit and actively support. Instead of gifts, we ask their party guests to bring a small donation. One year, my daughter collected 12 bags of canned goods for the Yarmouth Food Pantry; this past year, my son brought children's books to Cape Cod Child Development. We also have three jars for money they receive: spending, saving and sharing.

But, my goal isn't to raise little funders. I want them to be little philanthropists, generous in spirit. I want them to be kind, caring and deeply connected to others. And, I want them to translate all that goodness into a lifetime of ordinary and extraordinary actions. Whether they take in a stray cat, walk an elderly neighbor's dog or fund a rescue center, they will do good. They will also feel good.

Last year, we brought nationally-recognized author Susan Crites Price to speak to our donors. Her book *Generous Genes: Raising Kids in a Digital Age* has many simple, meaningful ways for parents, grandparents and mentors to help children learn the value of giving. It's also a good read for adults who want to re-examine their charitable giving.

Understandably, monetary gifts do matter. We manage over 300 charitable funds at the Foundation with assets totaling more than \$62 million. Over the past 28 years, the earnings from these assets have put more than that back into the community. That's a lot of dollar signs. That's a lot of impact. But that's not the only take-away.

Kind, caring people created every single one of those funds to support something they valued, believed in. Others are donating to those very same funds because they share those values and beliefs. And, there are many other ways to leverage financial resources for the greater good.

A recent US Trust study found that, while 78% of donors believe their giving is linked to their personal values, 67% cite that their greatest giving challenge is identifying the causes they care about and deciding where to donate. And that's where we can help you. Through our work at the Foundation, we know a lot about the Cape Cod region and the hard-working nonprofit organizations within it. We know where the needs are and where resources can have the greatest impact.

The holidays are an especially good time to get the conversations going with family members. What do you care about? How do you want to be remembered? What is the next chapter in your giving story? A brand-new year is lingering around the corner like an open invitation to not just do good, but to *do good better*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

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PS. The kids shown are adorable, but they're not mine. I borrowed them (with permission) from an online gallery of free images.