

10 Ways to Raise Generous Kids

- 1 Live within your means.**
Cut back where you can so that there are funds available for helping others. Explain why you say “no” to certain non-essential items or experiences.
- 2 Talk about your family “story.”**
What unique experiences have you shared as a family...good or bad? How might they inform how you give back?
- 3 Make generosity a family value & let kids make mistakes.**
When you give or volunteer, do it together and talk about it. Make it the default to be inclusive and generous! But let kids make some spending decisions.
- 4 Go on a “volunteer mission” together.**
Can you do a service-related activity with your kids and make it an interesting outing that you figure out together?
- 5 Set aside funds for giving.**
Get a second piggy bank for young kids to start a giving “fund.” Or start a family donor-advised fund for setting aside charitable dollars and giving together.
- 6 Be kind...give gifts in kind!**
Do the toy or food or coat drive. Set a budget, bring your kids, and let them help shop for items, wrap the gifts, and/or drop them off.
- 7 Explore experiential giving options.**
Sponsor a child or animal, and post their picture on your fridge. When giving has a “face,” it helps make giving tangible, even at a young age.
- 8 Give donations as gifts.**
Give cash or choose a toy to give as part of a child’s birthday... and do it in their name. Highlight the joy of giving...and this might become their favorite part of future birthdays!
- 9 Celebrate giving together.**
Attend a gala, auction, 5K, rally, or other charity-sponsored event. When kids see others getting excited about giving, they will, too.
- 10 Think about how philanthropy fits into your legacy plan.**
Consider how you can give strategically to your heirs and also leave a legacy of generosity. Make some of these items a part of your daily life with your family, and that’ll start today!