



EFFECTIVE CHARITY: DOES JUST “ANYTHING” HELP?

30 MINUTE PRESENTATION LUNCH AND LEARN

Intro:

This presentation is not meant to imply that anyone in this room today is necessarily doing charity *wrong*. This is also not meant to be an attack on different charitable ‘methodologies’ either.

Today, we’ll be talking about 7 marks of effective charity (*taken from the book The Tragedy of American Compassion by Marvin Olasky*).

The main point of the presentation is this: The more you apply these 7 marks of effective charity in your practice, the more effective your charity will be!

We are defining effective charity as LONG-TERM success. It’s more about outcomes than outputs. It’s about providing clients with HOPE. It’s about acknowledging that clients have inherent value, ability, and talents. Yes, people in poverty DO have something very valuable to offer!

If we give out enough hope to our struggling neighbors, there will be an avalanche of change.

That said, here are 7 marks of effective charity:

1. Affiliation- The closest and nearest help is the BEST help.

- a. For example, if I’m having a heart attack, do I want the governor to be the first one who is called to come to help me? Ideally, someone in this ROOM is the BEST one to help FIRST. Next would be the hospital, and so on.
- b. Empowerment is about an individual being responsible for being their own life story.
 - i. “We will walk WITH you, not FOR you.”
 - ii. Empowerment is not something that’s done TO you.
 - iii. For those we’re trying to help, they MUST be a part of their own solution.
 - iv. Tie in family and/or friends to be a part of the process (as long as it’s not an abusive relationship).
 - v. Churches play an integral role in affiliation.
 - vi. The government should be the LAST resort, not first (this is a big issue in America which has tragically created rampant dependency).

2. Bonding- The importance of getting to know those you’re offering charity to.

- a. How can you TRULY help someone if you don’t KNOW them?
- b. Get to know the person BEFORE you give monetary help.
 - i. Find out more about their situation, and most importantly who they are as a person.
 - ii. SLOW the process down. Don’t give in to urgency and emotion.
- c. There’s a WHOLE lot more to someone than their ‘needs.’

- d. Just focusing on someone's needs won't solve their problems.
 - e. Ask them- What CAN you do more than what CAN'T you do.
- 3. Categorization- Not everyone is the same therefore not everyone's needs are the same.**
- a. Charity must be individualized.
 - i. "Blanket" approaches DO NOT work. There's no such thing as "one size fits all."
 - b. Does the person need...**
 - i. **Relief?** Relief is an urgent, temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from an unavoidable crisis (not caused by chronic behavior or conditions). It is temporary and not meant to be a long-term solution.
 - ii. **Rehabilitation?** Rehabilitation begins as soon as the immediate suffering stops and seeks to restore people to the positive elements of their pre-crisis condition. Here, we move away from doing things *for* someone to working *with* them to take steps to improve their situation. The goal is stability.
 - iii. **Development?** Development is the process of ongoing change that moves people closer to a right relationship with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. Like rehabilitation, development is not done *to* people or *for* people, but *with* them. The goal is a holistically flourishing life.
 - c. Tough love- Tough love is very challenging to enact but VERY necessary if someone won't be a part of their own life story.
 - i. If you must exhibit tough love, ensure that the 'door' never fully closes. Make sure there is always a road back in for them.
- 4. Discernment- How do we figure out what category to put the client in?**
- a. How do we BEST serve the client?
 - b. It comes from experience.
- 5. Exchange- It's reciprocal.**
- a. Giver AND receiver are both involved in the process.
 - b. "Earn it."
 - c. The goal is to make the client believe: "I HAVE VALUE!"
- 6. Freedom- Dependency crushes freedom.**
- a. Steps to dependency for the one receiving charity-
 - i. Receive once- I feel appreciation
 - ii. Receive twice- I feel anticipation
 - iii. Receive a third time- I feel expectancy
 - iv. Receive a fourth time- I feel entitlement
 - v. Receive a fifth time- I feel dependency
 - b. Steps to dependency for the one giving charity-
 - i. Give once- I feel exhilaration
 - ii. Give twice- I feel a sense of purpose
 - iii. Give a third time- I feel necessary
 - iv. Give a fourth time- I feel essential
 - v. Give a fifth time- I feel paternal

- c. Continuous dependency on relief destroys the human spirit.
- 7. God- Faith component**
- a. A person is made up of 4 components: Physical, Mental, Spiritual, and Social.
 - i. Sadly, we often ignore the spiritual component in charitable circles.
 - ii. Imago Dei- Every human being is made in God's image.