

Jeffrey Epstein: 5 Unique Philanthropy Ideas

Jeffrey Epstein is a prominent science philanthropist whose Foundation has underwritten cutting-edged scientific endeavors throughout the world—most notably, the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University, which was established ten years ago in 2003, with a \$30 million dollar grant. As such, he is someone who takes philanthropic giving very seriously. You need not have your own Foundation, or close ties to world-renowned scientists, to make a difference, however. According to Mr. Epstein, there are plenty of ways in which individuals can make donations to non-profit groups—including some that you may never have thought of.

Using the Web

There are a few ways in which you can make charitable donations, simply, easily, and affordably—all by using the Internet. One method is to install the GoodSearch toolbar. GoodSearch is run by Yahoo, and provides individuals with a chance to select a charity they wish to support. When individuals use the GoodSearch tool to conduct their online searches, they raise money for their charity. What could be easier?

Alternatively, eBay has some avenues for charitable donation. The most significant, perhaps is called eBay Give Works. This is a program that allows sellers to give a percentage of their sales to one of several affiliated charities. Of course, these charitable gifts are tax deductible.

Unusual Donations

Of course, you can support charities and non-profits without giving money, strictly speaking. Did you know, for example, that you can donate frequent flyer miles to charities? Go to any of the redemption sites for frequent flyer miles and you will surely see an option for sending the funds to charity—something that can really add up! This is an especially great option given how many of us have frequent flyer miles that we really have no use for; surely it is better to donate them than to let them expire!

And speaking of things that are just sitting around, not getting any use: what about your old electronics? Did you know that many of these devices can get recycled, through an organization called Recycle4Charity (or one of many comparable outfits), and the funds given to non-profit organizations? This is a great way to get some mileage out of your old cell phones, ink cartridges, and so on.

The possibilities for unusual or unconventional donations go on from there. You may be aware of the charities that accept donations of hair, for example—yes, hair. Grow it out, cut it off, and send it off to one of the fine organizations that uses hair to make wigs for those afflicted with cancer. This is something that poses a viable option for many of us to give, and at no financial burden whatsoever.

Giving Back

The bottom line is that philanthropy and creativity often go hand in hand—something that Jeffrey Epstein knows well. There are plenty of ways to give back and to make a difference, and not all of them involve writing checks or making direct contributions to non-profit groups. According to Jeffrey Epstein, anyone and everyone can get involved in the important work of philanthropy.