As communities of color grow in wealth and influence, and women from all racial backgrounds lead through philanthropy, common perceptions of who society sees as a “philanthropist” are being challenged as never before. Our new Women Give report is the first study to explore the intersection of race, gender, and giving. The report finds that while each person’s giving journey is unique, generosity is universal across all groups of people.

A donor’s race does not have a significant effect on the amount given to charity. When factors like wealth, income and education are taken into consideration, race does not significantly influence giving.

Overall gender differences are consistent across race and ethnicity. Single women are more likely to give than single men, and married couples are more likely to give than singles.

Formal volunteering shows greater racial and ethnic gaps. Communities of color appear less engaged in formal volunteering, but tend to volunteer informally at higher rates.

Women in communities of color embrace an expansive definition of philanthropy that involves giving time, talent, treasure and testimony, whether formally and informally.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- As a donor, how does my identity—whether race or ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or something else—impact my philanthropy?
- As a fundraiser or nonprofit leader, how can I or my organization support, build, or expand networks to engage donors and volunteers in communities of color?

Whoever we are, we can tap into our resources, identity and experiences to make the world a better place.

WE CAN ALL BE PHILANTHROPISTS!