

**Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
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WHAT IS GOOD PHILANTHROPY

**By
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What are the factors of quality in running a foundation? This is what we think:

- **Advocacy** – for the applicant who comes in the door and for the donor. This is to say that whoever comes in the door, their success is our job. Likewise with donors, our job is to make their giving significant (it has impact) and fun (it gives satisfaction).
- **Modesty** – when one deals with money one deals with power. It is for foundation personnel to minimize that power by realizing it isn't their money and it isn't their foundation. They are stewards of these resources and it is their job to be responsive, flexible and humane.
- **Venture** – the willingness to take risks and not fear failure. America came about because people were willing to explore and face the unknown. Actually, there is no such thing as failure if as a result of the experience we learn what went wrong and can prevent it from happening again.
- **Perspective** – the ability to see a global issue such as teen pregnancy and find an intervention point wherein limited funds can have an impact. We learn that it isn't to "prioritize" or to do another needs analysis as much as it is for us to accept the challenge to do critical intervention funding now.
- **Creativity** - everyone has it; it is a matter of making it possible by being in a positive state of mind, not problem oriented. We invest in ideas not problems. An idea is what you want to have happen and how you want to bring it about. We want to encourage creativity.
- **Efficiency** – keeping our operational structure at a minimum. The tendency is for administrative processes to grow, sometimes to the point where the process becomes the product. The money is supposed to go to philanthropy, not administration. The key is in the spirit of those running the foundation.