

PAYING ATTENTION

Democracy and
the Ethics of Philanthropy

Three favorite things to talk about

- Jane Addams – Chicago icon, America's only “saint”
- Democracy – what all of us need to pay attention to, the genius of individual responsibility and common cause intersecting
- Ethics and philanthropy – why and how we live morally as individuals, organizations and in public

Paying attention

- How I learned to pay attention...
- Attending to the most important values, relationships, issues in our lives
- Paying attention as leadership
- Paying attention in a democracy – the genius of the intersection of individual and common values

What is philanthropy?

- What the word means...where we find it in our lives.
- The philanthropic dimension of our lives – how we love each other.
- “Ghettoized” in a sector, nonprofit organizations, fundraising...
- Say something philanthropic!

The ethics of philanthropy in democracy

- Depends on how we define the scope of philanthropy...
- In our democracy – with our “impulse to generosity” (Gaudiani) – the ethics of philanthropy are personal, professional, organizational and public
- How do make sense of those competing/complementary claims?

The role of philanthropy in our lives

- Personally – our stories of giving, volunteering, receiving...
- Professionally – codes of ethics governing expertise and relationships
- Organizationally – leadership and common purpose, being philanthropic together
- In public – the public practice of philanthropy and how it shapes our democracy

It begins with you

- You are the chief philanthropic officer in your life!
- What does that mean? How does that feel? Have you any training or preparation for that role?
- Are you prepared to tell your philanthropic story?

Philanthropic autobiography

- What are the experiences, people, and values (positive and not so!) that have shaped your understanding of philanthropy?
- Take a few moments to recount your philanthropic autobiography – then share it with someone
- If we can't make these links, how can we hope to lead philanthropic lives?

My philanthropic autobiography

- Rooted in a place, a community, a set of values, a religion, a family...
- Learning to be a grain-gatherer
- Understanding how my role as grain-gatherer is connected to all of us who care about the world

A vision for philanthropy in democracy

- We then turn to our duties to lead various institutions in their philanthropic efforts...
- One persuasive vision for philanthropy is “common work”
- The story of Jane Addams and her notion of “humane philanthropy”

Jane Addams and Her Call

- Who was this woman?
- Born 1860, in Cedarville, Illinois
- Died 1935, in Chicago, Illinois
- During her 75 years, she changed the world:
 - Hull-House, part of settlement house movement
 - Nobel Peace Prize in 1931

Jane Addams and philanthropy

- “A Modern Lear” – against philanthropy as patriarchy
- The responsibilities of humanity
- Helping others to be good citizens in democracy
- A parable of humane philanthropy as common work

The Addams' legacy

- Responsibility of being human vs. the responsibilities of wealth
- The social ethic of democracy
- The mutuality of interests and needs
- The central roles of agile and accountable institutions – working together

The vocation of citizenship

- The call to live in public, mutual interests and concerns
- The call to pursue the good in common
- The call to engage the body politic
- The call to believe in commonwealth
- The call to be a fellow traveler on a “mixed and thronged road”

Making a life

- You can create your own list of the ways you are formed
- My point is that if citizenship is a calling, then the sorts of people we are (our ethics and character as individuals and as a society) is directly linked to the well being of our democracy
- Jane Addams made a life and she made a difference

Philanthropy as common work (1)

- Philanthropy as common work means that philanthropy is at the core of the mission of your institution
- Think about where philanthropy “resides” in the organizations you work with and for
- How do we integrate the “philanthropic dimension” of all aspects of our mission-based work?

Philanthropy as common work (2)

- Philanthropy as common work means that philanthropy involves everyone in the community
- Reclaiming roles for professional staff, faculty, executive directors, volunteers, board members, alumni, students, and so forth
- Redressing the imbalance of the philanthropic community

Philanthropy as common work (3)

- Philanthropy as common work means that philanthropy must be publicly accountable
- Since it belongs to everyone, everyone has a right to know what went well (and what did not!)
- Pursuing rather than waiting for accountability to be imposed – the lessons of 9-11

Philanthropy as common work (4)

- Implications for the work of professional philanthropic fundraising:
 - The public roles of fundraisers – missionaries for philanthropy
 - The leadership roles of fundraisers – modeling common work in organizations
 - The conscience roles of fundraisers – public accountability

Ethics and philanthropy

- Fund raising and baseball—not just about dilemmas, hot issues...
- Professional ethics and the ethos of professions
- defining public character and organizational integrity
- My moral stories and yours: an aspect of reflective practice
- The various contexts of moral activity: personal, organizational, professional, public

Ethical decision-making

- Four central perspectives that influence and inform ethical decision making for professionals in philanthropy
 - Public trust/values
 - Organizational mission
 - Professional relationships
 - Personal integrity

THE BASIC COMMITMENTS OF PHILANTHROPIC PROFESSIONALS

PUBLIC TRUST/VALUES

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Public trust/values

- Channeling moral energies—the expressive dimension of our lives
- Social reform
- Gift-giving: charity, compassion, generosity
- Gift-receiving: gratitude, mutuality, stewardship
- ✓ What are the public values we uphold?

Organizational mission

- Why we exist as a philanthropic organization.
- Clarity of mission and values
- Consistency with mission and values
- Efficiency/effectiveness of mission-based activities
- ✓ What are the values of your organization and how do we live them out?

Professional relationships

- The critical role of trust: agency, systems, interpersonal trust
- Respect and fundamental moral worth
- Particularity—personalization
- Honesty; Fairness; and Cooperation
- ✓ Are your professional values adequately included in various codes of ethics?

Personal integrity

- Harmony with soul
- Fidelity to ideals
- Accountability
- Judgment, responsibility, and moral courage
- Finding our balance—virtues and vices—living in a messy world
- ✓ What's on your list?

THE ETHICAL DECISION- MAKING MODEL

Alternatives	1	2	3	4
Public Trust/ Values				
Organizational mission				
Relationships				
Personal Integrity				

The public practice of philanthropy

- One of the several practices that help to form a democracy – along with education, justice, and health
- Think about what we assume and count on as we navigate our lives together – what happens when those goods and practices are not there?

The component parts of the public practice of philanthropy

- A sense of history – remembering
- A sense of place – rooted
- A sense of values – grounded
- A sense of hope – faithful
- A sense of service – the connection between the liberal and domestic arts

The messiness of it all

- John Courtney Murray's wonderful phrase: democracy as the "intersection of conspiracies"
- Philanthropy and democracy as intertwined throughout history – no monolithic definition then nor now
- Evolving conspiracies mean evolving social patterns and institutional arrangements

Practicing philanthropy in public

- Who are our role models?
- The role of civic teachers and philanthropic counselors
- Helping to promote perspectives of trust, generosity, and abundance in our commonweal

Say something philanthropic!

- The work of citizenship – “the thronged and common road”
- Negotiating our lives with strangers
- Finding and sharing a language adequate to our needs and aspirations
- Agile and accountable organizational arrangements – common work is possible!

Philanthropy and democracy as common work

- It is about stewardship, accountability, and changing the way we live
- It is about a new mythology for the work of being philanthropic – personally, organizationally, and in public – it's not all about economics!
- It is about being both responsible and successful

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