

5 Ways to Pay it Forward

Express gratitude for everything you have by paying it forward to help your community.

1 Volunteer. It's one of the best ways to help others and make an impact in your community. Find a local charity and volunteer for a few hours a month or help someone that you know.

2 Mentor someone. Mentors provide useful insight and help guide people along their career paths. A fancy title and corner office aren't required to be a mentor; you just have to be comfortable enough to share your experiences, give advice and offer an ear to listen.

3 Share a skill. Are you a whiz at creating spreadsheets or using photo-editing software? Teach others how to do it. Many local colleges offer non-credit classes led by experts in the community. Additionally, many cities and towns offer classes through their community services divisions. If you don't have time to teach a class in person, try online. Websites such as Skillshare give experts a platform to share their knowledge and skills with students from all over the globe.

4 Use your skills to help others. Knit hats for newborns, make dinner for a neighbor who is sick or just had a baby, or help an elderly neighbor with repairs around the house. Whatever it is, let your skills help improve someone's day.

5 Write a kind note to someone. It doesn't matter who you write the note to; the only requirement is that it's genuine. Write an encouraging note to your niece who's in her first year of high school, write a note to a former teacher and explain how much they impacted your life, or write a note to the barista who always has a smile on his or her face every morning when you get your coffee. Not only will it boost the spirit of the person who receives it, it'll also encourage them to strive higher, and maybe write a note of their own.



The Benefits of Generosity

Do you want to improve your well-being and live longer?

Practice generosity. Generous people tend to be happier and healthier than their less generous peers. Here are five benefits of being generous:

- **You'll make someone's day.** You'll improve someone's mood and may even prompt them to pay it forward.
- **You'll contribute to the greater good of your community.** Good deeds help you build relationships with other people in your local area, making you feel more connected to your neighbors and community.
- **You'll feel more grateful.** A kind gesture will make you thankful that you are able to help, and may make you feel more satisfied with your life.
- **You'll stress less.** Being generous releases feel-good chemicals in your brain, which can help you reduce stress.
- **You'll improve your work performance.** Altruism on the job can help you boost work satisfaction, improve relationships with your co-workers and make you more committed to your job.



How Generous Are Americans?

The top five states with the highest percentage of people who reported giving time and money to charity

1. Utah
2. Minnesota
3. Hawaii
4. South Dakota
5. New Hampshire

Utah ranks #1 for donating money to charitable causes as well, with **71%** of people reporting donating money to charity. New Hampshire and Illinois tied for second place in monetary giving at **70%**.

