



## Giving to Charity

How you spend your money not only makes an impact on your own life but on the lives of others. One way that individuals and businesses can use their money to make a difference is by giving to charity. Charities are a special type of organisation set up to support a particular cause or provide a public benefit. They're often called 'not-for-profit' because any money they make goes towards running costs and the cause they support. Work Sheet WD3 - Giving to Charity contains more information about the different types of charity. There are many different ways to assist charities and some of the main ones are listed below. The Charity Commission determines who can be classed as a charity.

### Donating money

Donate your money by cash, cheque, credit or debit card, account transfer or direct debit to a registered charity. Money could be posted to the charity (by cheque), put in a donations box or even left in a person's will. Many charities prefer to receive donations by direct debit, as they can budget more easily if they know how much income they will receive. UK tax payers who donate to charity can fill in a form with their details so the charity can claim Gift Aid. This lets the charity get back the tax and so receive more money (around another 25% of the donation).

### Donating goods

Some charities also accept other forms of donations (e.g. clothes, food or even stocks and shares).

### Volunteering

Donate your time to a charity by volunteering. Charities are always looking for volunteers to help in any way. This could include doing administrative tasks in the charity's office, helping in a charity shop, becoming involved in practical projects (such as planting trees or looking after animals) or helping to promote the charity.

### Fundraising

You could either organise a fundraising event or become involved in one. The event might be a party or it may involve people completing a task (such as a fun run, skydive or read-a-thon) for sponsorship money (e.g. a certain amount for every book read). Once the event is over, you collect all the money and send it to the charity. You need to register for sponsored events and the charity in question will provide you with all the information you need to get going with your sponsorship.

### Give As You Earn (GAYE)

If you earn a salary and pay tax as you earn, you can give money to charity directly through your pay. This way, you don't have to pay tax on the donation. The charity knows they have this income coming in regularly and this helps them create a budget plan.

### Sponsoring a child or animal

Some charities let you sponsor a child or animal. You pay money every month to provide needed items such as food, clothing or shelter. There is also the possibility of receiving letters from the child or visiting your animal at the animal shelter.

