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from the Coastal desk of
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The Heart and Soul of What We Do

Dollars up and down.

Donors down.

Volunteering down.

By now I suspect you are aware of the report in June from the **Giving USA Foundation** that giving in 2021 increased 4% to \$484.5 billion but dropped slightly when adjusted for inflation. So, giving was both up and down depending on your perspective.

You may have also read the study from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy indicating that the number of households giving has declined from its high point of 68 % in 2002 to 49 % in 2018. That's about 20 million fewer households.

And just to add to the joy, Gallup polls show the rate of volunteerism has dropped from 65 % in 2013 to 56% in 2021.

Throw in a pandemic, the war in Ukraine, culture wars, and hyperinflation, and it's enough to get a person down.

As I talk with volunteers and professionals around the country who are tilling the fields of philanthropy, I sense a number of folks are a bit dispirited. I have to admit to occasional bouts of pessimism myself.

I am blessed by having two colleagues with graduate degrees in theology who periodically share uplifting thoughts from wise folks they admire. But, more recently my spirits have been lifted by a volunteer who has put heart and soul into a nonprofit organization tackling homelessness, an increasing problem here on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

I have been volunteering to work with her to help the board of the organization build a robust fundraising program as the demand for its services has increased significantly. All of the board members signed on to help folks in need, not raise

money, and so are more than a little daunted by the idea of asking for money. To lift their spirits to the task, she shared the book *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri J. M. Nouwen with Nathan Bell.

The book blew me away. In an earlier newsletter I wrote of the two books that have had the most impact on my thinking about how to do development: Harold J. Seymour's *Designs for Fundraising* and James Gregory Lord's *The Raising of Money*. Both are about the 'how' of our work. This one is about the 'why.' I commend it to your reading which at 118 pages won't take all that long.

Finally, to top it all off, she shared a poem that moved me greatly and can be found [here](#). My wish is that it will brighten your day and reaffirm your commitment to the important work we do.

Our Team

2022 State of Global Giving Report

According to a new report, in 2019, private and community foundations included in Candid's Foundation 1000 dataset awarded \$8 billion in global giving, a nearly fourfold increase since 2002, according to a new report from **Candid Foundation**.

The report, *The State of Global Giving by U.S. Foundations: 2022 Edition*, shows that between 2016 and 2019, grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation accounted for 44% of all global giving by U.S. foundations. Health-related funding accounted for 49% of all global grant dollars. When adjusted to exclude funding from the Gates Foundation, the share still represented 20.1% of all international grantmaking. Human rights funding realized the fastest growth in global support, moving from 7% of global grant dollars between 2011-15, to 11% between 2016-19.

While roughly 25% of annual grant dollars distributed since 2008 have been directed to global giving—up from 13% in 2002—that trend has not increased relative to domestic giving.

[For more, go here.](#) PND, 8-22

Black Wealth Data Center Launched

Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative launched the Black Wealth Data Center (BWDC), which will host the Racial Wealth Equity Database to help address the problem of insufficient and inaccessible data on Black wealth.

Funded by **Bloomberg Philanthropies** with an eight-figure commitment and incubated by Prosperity Now, BWDC compiles data from multiple sources on a wide range of factors correlated to economic well-being and progress by race, with the aim of empowering decision makers—including practitioners, elected officials at all levels, and philanthropists—and journalists to improve and document economic opportunity.

The **Racial Wealth Equity Database** will provide access to data on assets/debt, education, employment, homeownership, and business ownership and compare that data by race (Black, Hispanic, Asian, White, and Other or multiple races), sex, age, education attainment, and geographic area (state, county or zip code). The project also will build a network for

leaders and organizations working to create economic progress for Black families and communities. *PND, 9-15*

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