

# Joy-Filled Giving Profile

John and Mary Smith: Smith Family Foundation

September 1, 2016

## The Purpose of Our Giving

We both affirm that the purpose of the wealth entrusted to us is to serve (1) strategic international and regional organizations committed to caring for and educating orphans, and meeting the needs of the poor and widows, and (2) select local organizations that foster the welfare of the community. We will serve by providing financial resources and investing personal time.

## Our Giving Priorities

We have learned that wise stewardship involves not only funding effective organizations, but also following the passions and interests we have gained through our life experiences. The following "giving priorities" will guide the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

**1 CREATE A "LEGACY OF GENEROSITY" FOR OUR CHILDREN**  
Our children are our most important asset and most critical investment. We want to serve as models of generosity for them and involve them actively in our giving decisions.

**2 ASSIST THE DISENFRANCHISED**  
We believe firmly in our responsibility to care for the poor and widows. We want to assist disenfranchised people by helping them discover a purpose for their lives and by encouraging them to follow sound principles.

**3 CONTINUE TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL FOCUS**  
Through our travels, we have widened our perspective of the needs around the world. We will not only be involved in our community, but also focus globally to help social agencies changing lives in the international contexts we feel called to support.

**4 RESCUE AND REHABILITATE ORPHANS**  
Our family experiences of dealing with the pain of childhood loneliness helps us appreciate the need for sustained physical, social, and emotional care. Our giving will focus on meeting the needs of orphans around the world to foster self-sufficiency.

**5 BECOME WISE GIVERS**  
We want to be responsible as wise stewards of our giving. Our giving will focus on organizations that demonstrate high integrity. We will give preference to projects that are innovative and have a high probability of success.

**6 PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT**  
Both of us are energized by encouraging others. We will seek out specific opportunities in our giving to be an encouragement to those we give to. We want them to realize the source of our love and our generosity.

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## What Gives Us Joy in Giving

We realize that we have unique sensitivities to experiencing joy that have been shaped through specific life circumstances. We desire to experience increased joy by:

1. **Regular giving:** We will make a portion of our giving regular and systematic. We also want to respond to organizations that present requests for spontaneous gifts.
2. **Active involvement:** We prefer to be actively involved in organizations we provide with significant support, giving not only our financial resources but also our time.
3. **Witnessing results first-hand:** We enjoy seeing the organizations we support in action and hearing stories of lives that were changed. We want to visit sites and read regular reports.
4. **Increasing in wisdom:** We want to continue to discover and understand the purpose for our resources. We want to model wise philanthropy for our children.

## What Keeps Us From Joy in Giving

We have taken on the responsibility to support social agencies that reach out to orphans, the poor, and to widows. In allocating philanthropic resources, however, we want to avoid:

1. **Ineffectiveness:** We want our giving to fund innovative projects. We desire high-impact opportunities with measurable outcomes. We have been entrusted with wealth, and we take seriously our responsibility to give it away wisely.
2. **Family wealth:** We recognize that our wealth should serve a purpose. Our children should be trained appropriately, but the responsibility to give it away lies with us.
3. **Disorganized giving:** We desire to have a well-reasoned plan for our giving. We want to carefully examine how we give, where we give, and why we give.
4. **Over-commitment:** We realize there are unlimited requests for our time and resources. We need to maintain a healthy balance in our lives and avoid saying "yes" to every request to serve and/or give.