I'm a Philanthropist! Philanthropy Lesson  Adapted from: www.learningtogive.org

This lesson introduces the definition of philanthropy. Children are given the opportunity to see that philanthropy is something in which they are capable of participating. The memory building game helps individuals realize many different ways of being philanthropic. Students are encouraged to make a conscious effort to improve their community.

Objectives: The learner will:
- name a philanthropic act that they could actually perform.
- distinguish between the concepts of time, talent and treasure.
- illustrate a philanthropic act.

Materials: Paper, Pencils, Crayons, & Markers

Instructions:

1. Introduction: Introduce the word philanthropy by writing it for all to see. Ask students if they have heard of the word. Have them repeat it several times. What does the word mean? Ask students if they have heard of giving. Explain that philanthropy means giving of your time, talents or treasure for the common good.

2. Ask students:
   - What does it mean to give your time? What is your time? Recess, after school, etc.
   - What does it mean to give your talent? What is your talent? Can you play a musical instrument, sing, dance, paint, be a good friend? Are you kind or patient?
   - What does it mean to give your treasures? What are your treasures? Your treasures are your money or belongings.
   - What does common good mean? For the good of everyone.

3. Lead students: Guide a discussion about what students have to offer and to whom they could offer it. For example, a student may say, “I could volunteer my time at the Animal Shelter. I could walk dogs, clean cages or just play with lonely animals.” Explain that people give some of what they have (time, talent or treasure) because they have strong feelings for the cause (animal shelter, school, etc.) they selected.

4. Game: Tell students that each of them must now think of something philanthropic that they could personally do in their neighborhood, town, with family, or for friends. Explain that you will go around the room and each person will say “I’m going to be a philanthropist because I’m going to …” The next person will say “I’m going to be a philanthropist because I’m going to …” (what the previous person named and add their own. They only have to name the act that the previous student named and then add one of their own). Make a list of all of the ideas. Each student in turn names the previous student’s philanthropic act and adds his/her own. This continues around the classroom as each person adds another act to the list and must recite the ideas of their classmates. When the memory game is over, the list should be shown so the students can read and review all the philanthropic ideas together.

5. Create Art: Each student will illustrate one of the ideas given during the game, now listed on a chart. Ask the students to distinguish between time, talent, and treasure. The adult can bind the pages into a book for the whole class/family to enjoy, and upon which they can reflect.

6. Give: Choose an idea from the list to do today! Talk with your family how you can be a philanthropist in your neighborhood and community and make a difference today and in the future!

Additional ideas: Write a letter or draw a picture to send to people who cannot have visitors now (a list of addresses can be found at northfieldshares.org), use sidewalk chalk to create fun images in your neighborhood, go on a “loose change scavenger hunt” in your house and donate what you find to the “Stronger Together Fund” at Northfield Shares or to your favorite organization, or decorate the windows of your house with colorful hearts!