

THE PRESIDENTS' PLEDGE AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY

www.presidentspledge.org

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Presidents' Pledge?

The Presidents' Pledge is a leadership initiative of college and university presidents, past presidents, chancellors and presidents emeriti to support efforts that alleviate extreme global poverty. Participants pledge a percentage of their annual income to organizations addressing extreme poverty in the U.S. and around the world.

Why is The Presidents' Pledge needed?

Economists and other experts believe we can end extreme global poverty in our lifetimes. We have the knowledge and technology to ensure that all people have sufficient food, safe drinking water, access to education and basic health care. What's lacking is collective will and action. The Presidents' Pledge focuses public attention on global poverty and inspires others to give and to act. In addition, this public commitment invites dialogue about innovative ways to alleviate extreme poverty.

How does The Presidents' Pledge work?

Participants sign a public pledge (renewed yearly) stating that they will contribute a percentage of their annual income to organizations that address the causes or effects of global poverty. Participants give directly and individually to organizations of their choosing. They also join a community of university presidents, chancellors, past presidents and presidents emeriti committed to alleviating global poverty. Presidents are encouraged to add their names to the list on our website of, I preferred, presidents may make their pledges anonymously.

Why does The Presidents' Pledge focus on college and university presidents and chancellors?

University presidents are leaders of institutions that prepare the next generation of global citizens—institutions that are at the forefront of research, teaching and public service efforts to mitigate poverty. These presidents want to give voice to the cause of ending extreme poverty. They believe a public pledge to do so is consistent with their leadership responsibilities and roles in higher education and society.

Why does The Presidents' Pledge highlight individual philanthropy to address poverty?

Addressing poverty is complicated and will require more than individual giving. Still, the evidence is clear: personal philanthropy makes a difference when it is directed to organizations whose work is proven to be effective and efficient.

How much money does The Presidents' Pledge represent in total giving?

The Pledge does not track or report the amount of giving by participants.

Where does the money go?

Pledge participants give directly to organizations working to end poverty. At least half of individual contributions focus on international projects; up to half of individual giving may be allocated to causes that alleviate poverty within the U.S. This is particularly important to college and university presidents who see significant social and economic needs in their local communities.

Does The Presidents' Pledge project receive any money from participants?

No. Participating presidents make their own decisions about where to contribute and they give directly to those organizations. The Presidents' Pledge has received start-up funding for coordination from a private donor and a special grant from The Henry Luce Foundation. The project is aligned with Bolder Giving (www.boldergiving.org), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides fiscal sponsorship for the project.

How did The Presidents' Pledge get started? How long will it last?

Ann Svennungsen, past president of Texas Lutheran University, started the Pledge in 2010 in conversation with higher education colleagues. The Pledge project will continue at least until the United Nations Millennium Development Goals for ending extreme poverty have been achieved.

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.presidentspledge.org; contact Ann Svennungsen at asvennungsen@presidentspledge.org or 612.965.1628.