

A Special Report

faith & **PHILANTHROPY**

The Connection Between Charitable
Behavior and Giving to Religion

giving & **VOLUNTEERING**

IN THE UNITED STATES



INDEPENDENT
SECTOR

About INDEPENDENT SECTOR

INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of more than 700 national organizations, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, collectively representing tens of thousands of charitable groups in every state across the nation. Its mission is to promote, strengthen, and advance the nonprofit and philanthropic community to foster private initiative for the public good.

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INDEPENDENT SECTOR's Research Program works to build the research necessary to accurately define, chart, and understand the nonprofit sector and ways it can be of greatest service to society. Signature projects include the *Nonprofit Almanac*, *Giving and Volunteering in the United States*, and the Measures Project.

The *Giving and Volunteering in the United States 2001 Series*

An executive summary, comprehensive report, and series of smaller reports exploring special topics from the *Giving and Volunteering in the United States* national survey will be available throughout 2002. Orders can be placed by calling the INDEPENDENT SECTOR Publications Center at 888-860-8118 or by visiting the INDEPENDENT SECTOR website at www.IndependentSector.org.

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Faith and Philanthropy is the first publication in the new *Giving and Volunteering* Signature Series. This series is made possible by generous support from **MetLife Foundation.**



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Methodology and Authors' Note on Definition of Terms

Methodology

Faith and Philanthropy: The Connection Between Charitable Behavior and Giving to Religion is based on analysis from INDEPENDENT SECTOR's *Giving and Volunteering in the United States* 2001 national survey. The survey was a telephone survey of 4,216 adult Americans 21 years of age or older conducted in the months of May through July of 2001 by Westat, Inc., for INDEPENDENT SECTOR. The interviews asked about individual volunteering habits in the 12 months prior to the survey and about household giving during the year 2000. For the purposes of this report, volunteering is dated 2000.

Authors' Note on Definition of Terms

Faith and Philanthropy: The Connection Between Charitable Behavior and Giving to Religion explores the link between Americans' generosity to religion and their support of the vast array of other charitable groups that make up America's nonprofit sector. The report compares the generosity of donors to religious congregations to the involvement of those who contribute to the wide variety of other charities serving the public through social services, arts and culture, education, research, healthcare, and other services. While some of these other charities may be affiliated with a religious denomination, they are formed for the purpose of providing a public service and generally serve a wide secular community. This is distinct from religious congregations

formed to provide religious education and guidance. Thus, to emphasize this distinction, we have adopted the following terminology for the purposes of this report. Those who contribute time or money fall into one of three mutually exclusive categories:

- **Givers to religion** are people who give time or money to religious congregations such as churches, temples, and mosques.
- **Secular givers and secular volunteers** give time or money to a wide variety of other charitable organizations, such as zoos, museums, hospitals, schools, and youth organizations, but do not give to religious congregations.
- **Givers to both** are those who give time or money to both religious congregations and secular organizations.

Charitable organizations fall into one of two mutually exclusive categories:

- **Religious congregations** include houses of worship such as churches, temples, and mosques. This category does not include schools, hospitals, or other charities that may be sponsored by, associated with, or part of a religious body.
- **Secular organizations** are the charities working in a wide variety of areas, such as health, education, youth development, and environment. Included in this definition are charities that may be sponsored by, associated with, or part of a religious body, such as Catholic Charities, United Jewish Appeal, or church-sponsored hospitals or schools.

Figures for household contributions and percentage of income contributed are averages for contributing households only.

Foreword

Robert W. Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches;
Board member, INDEPENDENT SECTOR

In his 1831 reflections on democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville said, in effect, that America is great because she is good. If ever she ceases to be good, she will cease to be great. We can reasonably assume from the context of this quotation that Tocqueville is utilizing moral language to describe the quality of motivation and generosity he had observed in his exposure to the civic and voluntary life of early America.

This INDEPENDENT SECTOR report picks up on Tocqueville's long-neglected theme. Like Tocqueville at his best, this study holds up a mirror to the landscape of American philanthropy and reflects back to us a picture that shows a bold and

persistent link between patterns of giving to religious institutions and to the broader society.

Most pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, and other religious leaders will not be surprised to learn that those who contribute their time and financial resources to religious institutions are more likely to contribute to broad civic purposes as well. Religious leaders carefully cultivate the habit of sharing resources as an article of faithful witness and a matter of responsible living within civic society. The findings of this study offer evidence that such lessons are instructive to congregants in heretofore-unrecognized proportions. The finding that those who give to religious organizations are both more likely to give to secular organizations and to give more generously of both time and money should and will have important consequences for many aspects of our society.

In a moment in which “faith-based initiatives” are being debated as one means to provide services to needy populations, this report offers hard evidence of the religious community’s philosophic and material capacity for generosity and civic engagement.

Leaders of religious congregations will find this report not only satisfying but also an inducement to continue with their practices of cultivating generosity and involvement among their congregants. Real contributions to the well-being of our communities, the preservation of

our natural resources, and the very culture and people of our land are the beneficiaries of this great giving of resources.

As a seminary president I often sought contributions from for-profit corporations. Corporations may find in this study the evidence of broad community giving, which is often foundational to their own contributions. This study offers corporate philanthropy an opportunity to observe the scope and scale of such contributions in a broader context.

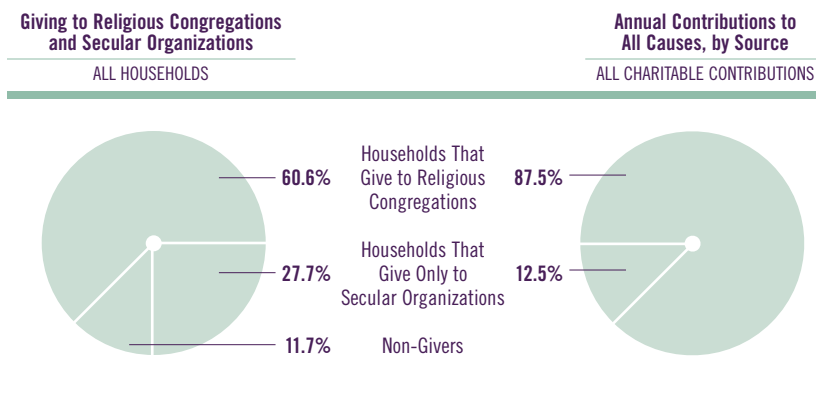
As General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, I am often asked by large benevolent organizations how they might gain better access to the vast infrastructure of American churches, especially to enlist the voluntary services of believers to aid the hungry and the homeless, the young and the elderly. In the light of the findings of *Faith and Philanthropy*, we should all redouble our efforts knowing that the resources are great and the intentions good among congregational participants to be wise stewards of their resources of time and money to serve the greater common good.

The goodness, which Tocqueville once linked to greatness, is in no short supply in today’s America, and INDEPENDENT SECTOR has enabled all of us to better understand how and where we might locate and direct it for purposes benevolent to all.

Overview

Americans who give to or volunteer with religious congregations give more time and money than those only involved in secular charitable activities. The power of faith-based giving and volunteering is clear, compelling, and measurable:

The beliefs, values, attitudes, and commitments of those who contribute to religion translate into high levels of generosity to other causes as well. Undoubtedly, there are a number of other factors that influence levels of giving, including income and home ownership, but religious belief is without question one of the most important factors independent of economic status.

Figure 1 Faith and Philanthropy

Givers to churches, temples, and mosques—about 60 percent of all households—support not only their places of worship, but also act on their values by supporting other secular causes. Of givers to religious congregations, over 85 percent also support secular organizations, providing three-quarters of the philanthropic support those other organizations receive. Overall, religion-giving households give 87.5 percent of all charitable contributions, averaging over \$2,100 in annual contributions to all causes (Figure 1).

Givers to religious congregations are dramatically more generous than others. Those who give to both congregations and secular organizations give nearly four times as much as those who only give to secular charities. Further, givers to religion are just as generous to other types of nonprofit organizations as

are secular givers. Clearly, giving to religion does not detract from the support these other organizations receive.

The influence of faith extends to volunteering. People who regularly attend religious services are much more likely to be volunteers. Fifty-four percent of those who regularly attend religious services volunteer, while only 32 percent of the non-attendees volunteer. Further, frequent attendees, 29 percent of all people, account for nearly 70 percent of the hours volunteered each month. In round numbers, one-third of the people give two-thirds of the time. It is evident that faith has a remarkable impact on volunteering.

Giving to Religious Congregations

The overall population data show that roughly one in ten households do not make charitable contributions; one in ten give to religious congregations only; three out of ten give only to secular charities; and five out of ten give to both religious congregations and secular organizations (Figure 2).

Households that give to religion also give to other secular nonprofit organizations at a remarkable rate and with considerable impact. Looking at just the 68.6 percent of giving households that give to religion, 14.2 percent give to religion only and 85.8 percent give to both religious and secular organizations.

Households that give to both kinds of organizations show the influence of faith-based goals and values. As shown in Table 1, households that give to both congregations and secular organizations:

- Give more in total (\$2,247) than do households that give only to religion (\$1,154) and households that give only to secular organizations (\$623); and
- Give more to secular organizations than households that give only to secular organizations (\$958 compared to \$623).

These findings hold across all income groups, all regions of the country, and are true whether the household owns or rents. Nationally, just over 50 percent of all households give to both religious congregations and secular organizations, yet these households accounted for over 80 percent of all donations (Table 1). The influence of religious principles, values, and philosophies is unmistakable: These households are more generous than other households. (Please see authors' note on definition of terms on page 6.)

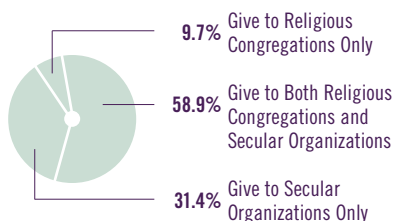
Nearly 70 percent of all giving households give to religious congregations, with an average annual contribution to all charities of \$2,104. In contrast, 31.4 percent of households give only to secular organizations, with an annual contribution of \$623. Given this disparity in both percentages and averages, it is no surprise that over 87 percent

Figure 2 Where Households Give

All Households (Includes Non-Givers)



All Giving Households



Households Giving to Religious Congregations

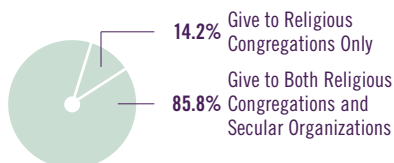


Table 1 Annual Household Contributions to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations

	Households That Give to Religious Congregations	
	ALL RELIGIOUS-GIVING HOUSEHOLDS	GIVE TO RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS ONLY
Average Annual Contribution	\$2,104	\$1,154
Percent of Total Giving	87.5%	6.3%
Percent of Total Giving by Households That Give to Religious Congregations	100.0%	7.2%
Percent of Total Giving by Households That Give to Both Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations		

Contributing households only.

of all giving comes from households that give to religion (Table 1).

Households that give to religious congregations can be divided into two groups: those that give to congregations only and those that give to both congregations and secular causes. Of the former group, households that give to religion alone give an annual average of \$1,154 and account for 6.3 percent of total annual giving. Households that give to both religion and secular organizations give an average of \$2,247 per year, accounting for 81.2 percent of all giving (Figure 3).

Figure 4 illustrates that contributing households that give to both religious congregations and secular organizations give more to religion than do those that give only to religion (\$1,391 compared to \$1,154). As a matter of fact, over 92 percent of all giving by

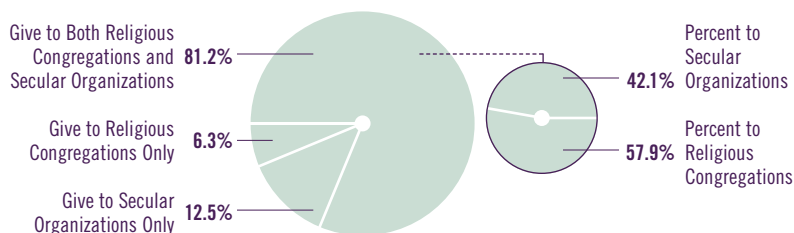
religious giving households comes from households that give to both religious and secular causes (Table 1).

Support of Secular Organizations

A vast majority of congregation-giving households extend their generosity beyond their houses of worship: Over 85 percent also give to other kinds of organizations. Further, the majority of support received by secular organizations comes from those who also give to religion. Examined as a group or examined by type of organization, secular organizations receive more support from givers to religion than they do from households that do not give to religion (Figure 5). Of those households that give to both religious and other organizations, over half (55%) give to at least two

Give to Both Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations			Households That Give to Secular Organizations Only
ALL	AMOUNT TO RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS	AMOUNT TO SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS	
\$2,247	\$1,391	\$958	\$623
81.2%	47.0%	34.2%	12.5%
92.8%	53.7%	39.1%	
100.0%	57.9%	42.1%	

Figure 3 Total Annual Contributions by Givers to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations



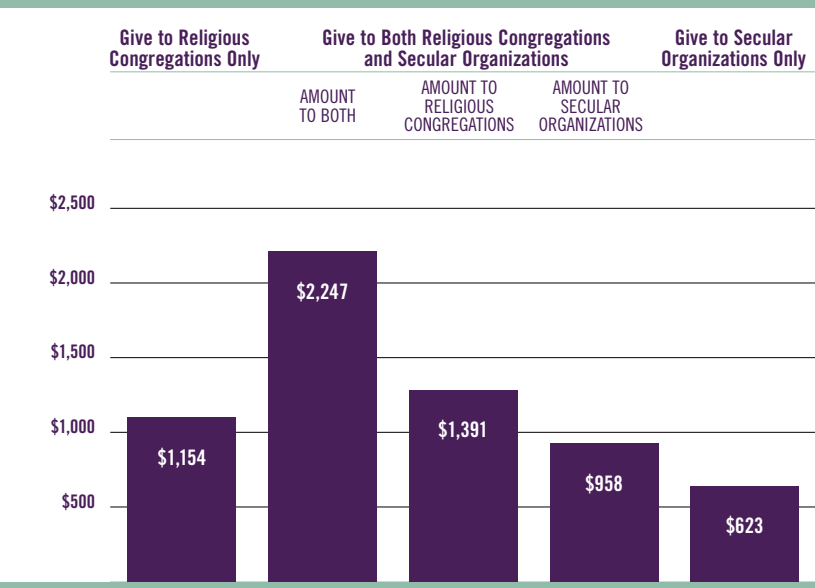
other kinds of organizations, in addition to a religious congregation. In contrast, only 38 percent of households that give only to secular organizations give to more than two kinds of organizations.

Households that give to both congregations and secular organizations give over three times more

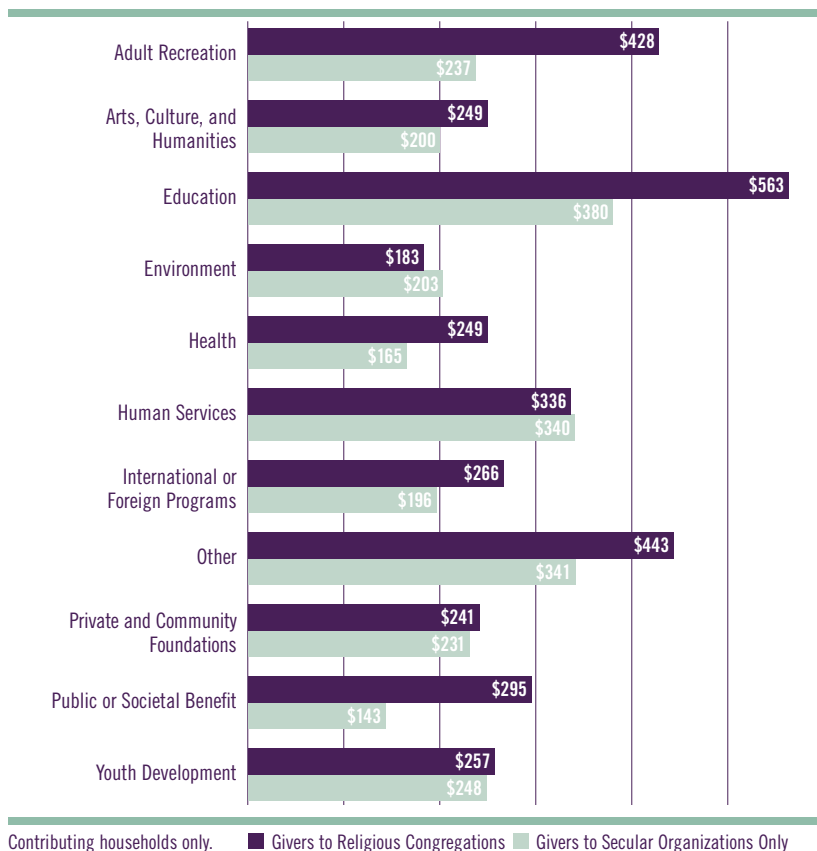
than do households that give only to other organizations (\$2,247 compared to \$623) (Table 1). Households that give to religion and other areas make their largest contribution to religion, giving two, three, four, or more times as much money to religion as they give to any other type of organization

GIVERS TO RELIGION ARE AS
GENEROUS—OR MORE SO—TO
OTHER TYPES OF NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS AS ARE
SECULAR GIVERS.

Figure 4 Annual Household Contributions to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations



Contributing households only.

Figure 5 Annual Contributions to Secular Causes by Type of Giver

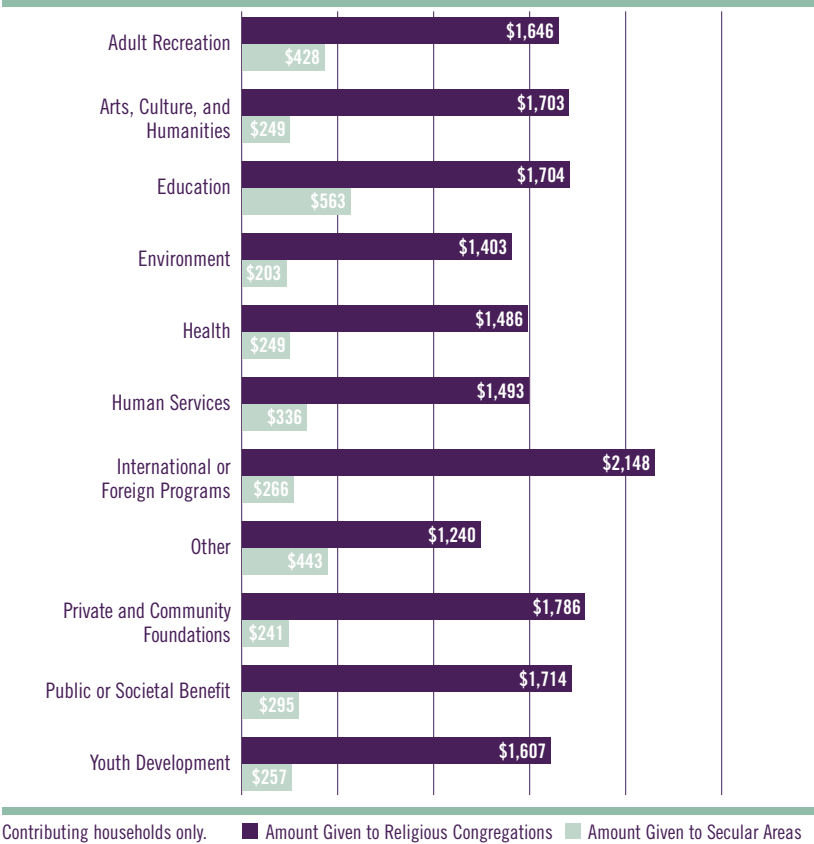
(Figure 6). Further, givers to religion are as generous—or more so—to other types of nonprofit organizations as are secular givers. Giving to religion does not take away from the support these other organizations receive.

Adult Recreation

Adult recreation includes organiza-

tions focused on such activities as swimming, boating, skiing, and hunting clubs for adults. Recreation receives support from 8.3 percent of households that also give to religion and 5.9 percent of households that give only to secular charities. The average annual contribution among households contributing to recreation for each

Figure 6 Annual Contributions to Secular Causes by Givers to Religion

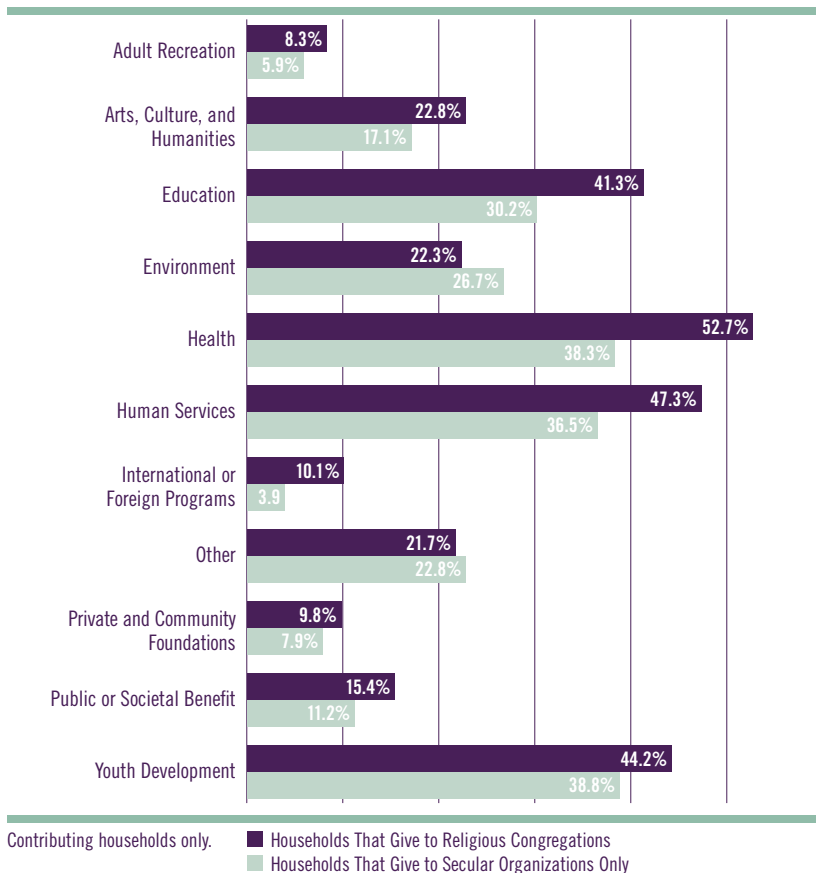


group is \$428 and \$237, respectively. In terms of the total received by recreation organizations, 81.0 percent comes from households that also give to religion.

Arts, Culture, and Humanities

Arts, culture, and humanities include a wide variety of organizations, from performing arts organizations to museums to public

television and radio. These organizations received 74.2 percent of their individual support from households that also give to religious congregations, with an average annual contribution of \$249. Over 22 percent of all religious-giving households give to this area, slightly more than the 17.1 percent of the secular-giving households. The average annual contribution

Figure 7 Giving to Secular Organizations by Household

from secular giving households is \$200, contributing 25.8 percent of the total.

Education

The area of education includes public and private elementary, secondary, and higher education, PTAs, and libraries. Education enjoys the highest average annual contribution from households that

also give to religious congregations, \$563. Likewise, the average annual contribution to education from the secular-giving households is also the highest of the areas studied, but the average is \$380, about one-third less than religious-giving households give. In terms of percentages, 41.3 percent of the religious giving households also support education, compared to 30.2 percent of the

secular giving households. Nearly 78 percent of all contributions to education come from households that also support religion.

Environment and Animal Welfare

Environment includes organizations that focus on the prevention of cruelty to animals, animal rights, and environmental protection and beautification. The average annual contribution from secular givers is more than the average from those who also give to congregations (\$203 compared to \$183). A greater percentage of the secular-giving households support environmental and animal welfare causes than do religious-giving households (26.7% to 22.3%). However, religious-giving households still provide more than half of the total support received by this group, giving 61.0 percent of contributions.

Health

Examples of organizations in the health area include hospitals and other health facilities, mental health services, nursing homes, hospices, and disease-specific organizations such as the American Cancer Society. About 53 percent of all religious-giving households give to the health area, making it the most popular secular cause for givers to religion. The average annual contribution from these households is \$249, providing on the whole 78.0 percent of the total given each year to health organizations. By comparison, the secular-giving households

give an average of \$165 to health organizations. Thirty-nine percent of secular-giving households give to health, accounting for the other 22.0 percent of total contributions to this area.

Human Services

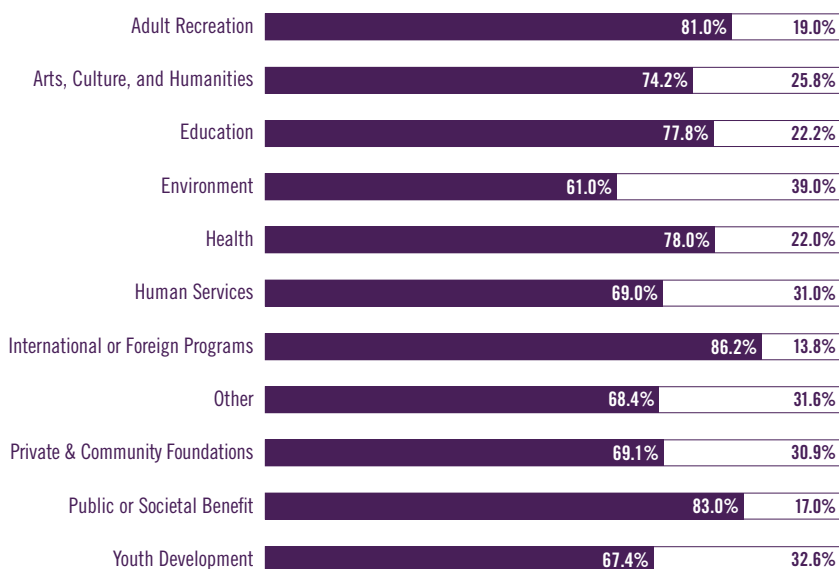
The human services category covers a wide variety of activities, ranging from local daycare centers to multi-purpose organizations such as the Red Cross. Services include daycare, elder care, family counseling, substance abuse counseling, consumer protection, job services, and many other such services that help people in need. About half of the households (47.3%) that give to religious congregations also give to one or more organizations in the human services field, accounting for 69.0 percent of total contributions. The average annual contribution is \$336. In contrast, 36.5 percent of secular-giving households give an average of \$340 to human services organizations, accounting for 31.0 percent of the total.

International and Foreign Programs

The two main areas of international and foreign programs are international relief and student or cultural exchange programs. Just over 10 percent of households that give to religious congregations also give to international programs, while a much lower percentage (3.9%) of secular-giving households also support these programs. The average

ABOUT 53 PERCENT OF ALL RELIGIOUS-GIVING HOUSEHOLDS GIVE TO THE HEALTH AREA, MAKING IT THE MOST POPULAR SECULAR CAUSE FOR GIVERS TO RELIGION.

Figure 8 Sources of Support for Secular Causes (Percent of Total Dollars)



Contributing households only.

■ Households That Give to Religious Congregations

□ Households That Give to Secular Organizations Only

Table 2 Income and Regional Differences in Giving

	Population Reference		
	PERCENT OF POPULATION	ALL GIVING HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION*
Income			
Up to \$24,999	24.4%	21.2%	\$440
\$25,000-\$49,999	32.0%	31.8%	\$895
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.4%	22.6%	\$1,636
\$75,000-\$99,999	9.8%	10.8%	\$2,048
\$100,000 and Up	12.4%	13.7%	\$3,853
Census Region			
Northeast	19.4%	19.6%	\$1,298
South	23.6%	23.9%	\$1,502
Midwest	36.3%	35.9%	\$1,734
West	20.8%	20.7%	\$1,889

* Contributing households only.

contribution from the religious-giving households is also larger (\$266 compared to \$196). Eighty-six percent of international programs' total contributions comes from religious-giving households.

Private and Community Foundations

Private and community foundations can be large organizations such as the Ford Foundation or smaller foundations that serve just one community. There is little difference in the percentage of the two groups supporting these foundations (9.8% of the religious-giving households and 7.9 percent of the secular-giving households) and no measurable difference in the average annual

contribution (\$241 and \$231, respectively). In terms of total support, however, 69.1 percent comes from the religious-giving households.

Public or Societal Benefit

Civil rights, minority, and women's equality issues, as well as community or social action are examples of organizations under this heading, as are civic groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis. About the same percentage of religious-and secular-giving households reported supporting such organizations (15.4% and 11.2%, respectively). However, because religious-giving households show a larger average contribution (\$295 compared to \$143), religious-giving households

Givers to Religious Congregations			Givers to Secular Organizations Only		
PERCENT OF GIVING HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION*	PERCENT OF TOTAL GIVING	PERCENT OF GIVING HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION*	PERCENT OF TOTAL GIVING
67.4%	\$774	87.4%	32.5%	\$219	12.6%
66.3%	\$1,394	88.4%	33.7%	\$344	11.6%
68.9%	\$2,266	87.4%	31.0%	\$700	12.6%
72.6%	\$2,689	89.9%	27.4%	\$733	10.1%
72.2%	\$4,815	86.2%	27.5%	\$1,907	13.8%
79.7%	\$1,688	86.7%	20.3%	\$519	13.3%
77.7%	\$1,902	88.4%	22.3%	\$577	11.6%
69.5%	\$2,222	92.7%	30.5%	\$459	7.3%
73.0%	\$2,595	79.2%	27.0%	\$929	20.8%

account for 83.0 percent of the total contributions.

Youth Development

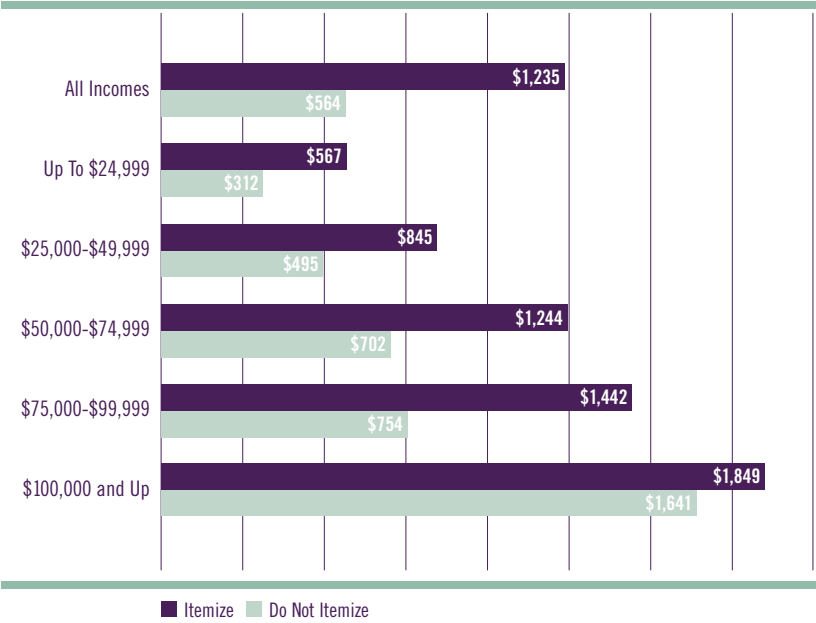
Youth development is a large area, covering organizations such as little leagues, boys and girls clubs, and 4-H. This area enjoys broad support from religious-giving households, with 44.2 percent contributing an average of \$257 annually, accounting for 67.4 percent of the total contributions to these organizations. The corresponding findings for secular-giving households show support from 38.8 percent of the households with an average contribution of \$248, accounting for the other 32.6 percent of this area's support.

Other

The "Other" group includes giving not easily categorized, such as firefighters' and police funds and organizations that fit into more than one category in the mind of the respondent (for example, a religious school's baseball team). Twenty-two percent of religious-giving households and 23 percent of secular-giving households give to organizations they were unable to otherwise classify. The average annual contribution for each group is \$443 and \$341, respectively, with the religious-giving households accounting for 68.4 percent of all annual contributions allocated to this area.

IN EVERY INCOME CATEGORY AND IN EVERY REGION, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FROM GIVERS TO RELIGION IS MORE THAN THE AVERAGE FROM GIVERS TO SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS ONLY.

Figure 9 Giving to Religious Congregations by Federal Income Tax Itemizer Status



Findings by Selected Household Demographics

The finding that donors to religion are the most generous of any other subgroup extends across demographic and geographic characteristics. In every income category and in every geographic region, the basic fact is reaffirmed: The average total annual contribution from givers to religious congregations is more than the average from those who only give to secular organizations.

Income

Households that earn under \$25,000 annually make up 24.4 percent of the surveyed population and 21.2 percent of all giving households, with an average annual contribution of \$440. Contributing households in this income category give an average of \$774 when they give to religious congregations, compared to an average of \$219 when they give only to secular charities. Of the households in this income category, 67.4 percent give to religious congregations and 32.5 percent give to secular organizations only. Of the total given, over 87 percent is from households that give to religion (Table 2).

Households with incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 are 32.0 percent of the population and 31.8 percent of all giving households. Their average annual contribution is \$895, divided between those that give to religious congregations (66.3%, average gift of \$1,394) and those that give to

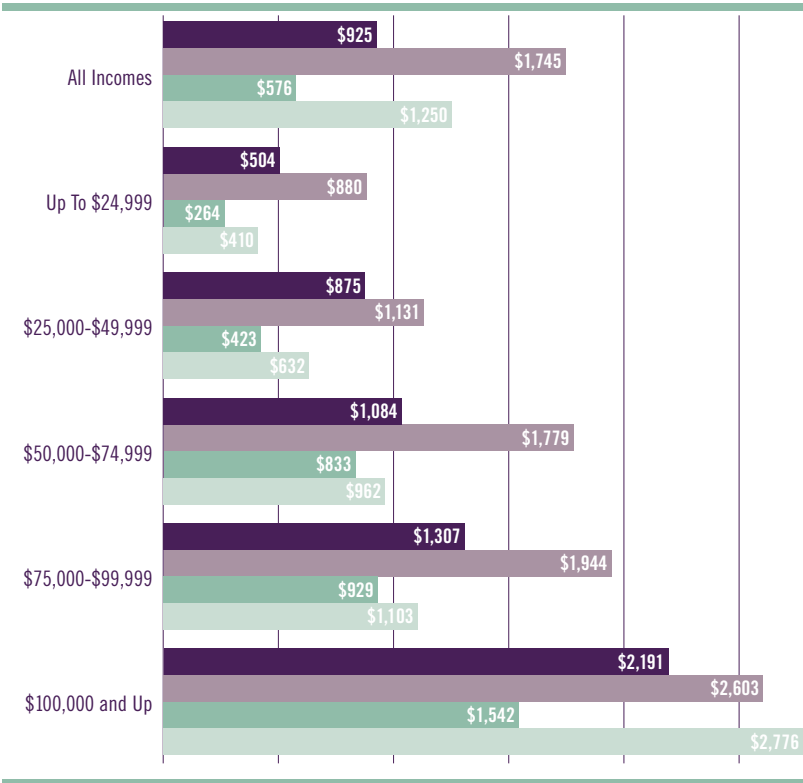
secular organizations (33.7%, average gift of \$344). In terms of percentage of total giving by this income category, 88.4 percent comes from those who give to both religious and secular organizations.

The income range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 comprises 21.4 percent of the population and 22.6 percent of the givers. The overall average annual contribution by giving households is \$1,636, with an average of \$2,266 from givers to religion and \$700 from givers to secular charities only. Over 87 percent of all giving comes from households that give to religion.

Households with incomes between \$75,000 and \$100,000 are 9.8 percent of the population and 10.8 percent of all giving households, with an average annual contribution of \$2,048. The average annual contribution by givers to religion is \$2,689, compared to the average for secular givers of \$733. Givers to religion account for nearly 90 percent of all giving by this income group.

The highest income group is comprised of households with incomes exceeding \$100,000. This income group is 12.4 percent of the population and 13.7 percent of all giving households. The households in this highest income group show the highest average annual contribution, as might be anticipated. The overall average contribution among giving households in this group is \$3,853, with givers to religious congregations making 86.2

Figure 10 Giving to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations by Income Class and Federal Income Tax Itemizer Status*



* Households that give to both religious and secular organizations.

■ Amount to Religion (Do Not Itemize)
 ■ Amount to Religion (Itemize)
 ■ Amount to Secular (Do Not Itemize)
 ■ Amount to Secular (Itemize)

percent of all contributions and an average gift of \$4,185. The givers to secular charities account for 13.8 percent of all giving by this income group, with an average annual contribution of \$1,907.

Region of the Country

Regional analyses show the same

trend within each region. In the four census regions examined, Northeast, South, Midwest, and West, the average annual contribution by givers to religious congregations was more than the average by givers to secular organizations only. Among all contributing households, the highest average

annual contribution is from households in the West, about 45 percent greater than the average in the Northeast (\$1,889 compared to \$1,298). However, the households from the Midwest are most involved in religious giving, with over 92 percent of all their contributions coming from households that give to religion. The West, again, stands out from the others, with over 20 percent of all annual giving coming from households that give only to secular charities. Households from the West also make the highest secular-only annual average contribution, \$929, far greater than the average from the other regions (Table 2).

Tax Filing Status

There are major differences in the annual contributions when examined in terms of whether the household itemized deductions on its federal tax return. Because the propensity of people to itemize varies by income, the relationship between giving to religion and itemizer status is presented first by income levels. Across all income levels, people who itemize their deductions on their federal tax return give more to religion than do those who do not itemize (Figure 9). For incomes under \$100,000, itemizers give about twice as much to religion as do nonitemizers, with those having incomes over \$100,000 showing a slight but significant difference.

Another way to examine the relationship between tax filing status and giving is to look at giving to both religious congregations and secular organizations in relation to income. For each income range, there are several factors to examine, including the amount given to religious congregations and the amount given to secular organizations in the context of whether the household itemizes deductions on the federal tax return. The findings are shown in Figure 10.

In every income category, the average annual household contribution:

- To religious congregations is more for itemizers than for non-itemizers;
- To secular organizations is more for itemizers than nonitemizers;
- To religious congregations is more for itemizers than is the average annual household contribution to secular organizations for itemizers;
- To religious congregations is more for nonitemizers than is the average annual household contribution to secular organizations by nonitemizers.

Those who itemize their deductions on their federal tax return give more to both religious congregations and secular organizations than those who do not itemize. This finding holds across income categories.

Volunteering with Religious Congregations

As was shown with giving to religion, people who volunteer with both religious congregations and secular organizations are more generous with their time than those who volunteer with either kind alone. The commitment they feel toward their place of worship follows them as they also help other kinds of organizations meet their needs. The small group of people (8.6% of the population) who volunteer to both congregations and secular organizations accounts for over 30 percent of all volunteering hours. Their hours are equally split between religious and secular organizations.

Basic Distribution

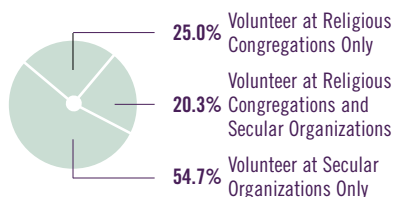
More than half of the population does not volunteer at all, with nearly another one-quarter volunteering only to secular causes. About one in ten volunteer only to religious organizations and another one in ten volunteer to both religious congregations and secular organizations. Looking just at volunteers, over 54 percent serve only with secular organizations, 25 percent volunteer at religious congregations only, and 20 percent volunteer at both religious congregations and secular organizations (Figure 11). Of people who volunteer to religion, 55.2 percent volunteer only at religious congregations and 44.8 percent volunteer at both. Volunteers for religious congregations give an average of 16.4 hours per month, about 16 percent more than the 14.1 hours given by secular volunteers (Table 3).

The most striking difference is between those who volunteer at religious congregations only and those who volunteer at both congregations and secular organizations. Those who volunteer at religious congregations only are 25.0 percent of all volunteers (Figure 11) and

Figure 11 Where Adults Volunteer



All Volunteering Adults



Adults Who Volunteer at Religious Congregations

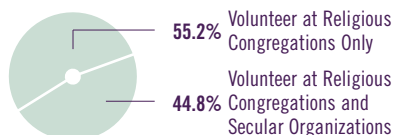


Figure 12 Most Common Patterns of Religious and Secular Volunteering

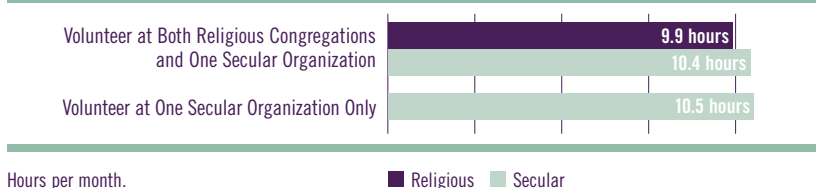


Table 3 Patterns of Volunteers to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations

	People Who Volunteer at Religious Congregations	
	ALL VOLUNTEERS AT RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS	VOLUNTEER AT RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS ONLY
Average Hours Per Month People Volunteer	16.4 hours	10.4 hours
Distribution of Total Volunteer Hours	47.1%	15.6%
Distribution of All Volunteers at Religious Congregations	100.0%	33.3%
Distribution of All Volunteers at Both Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations		

give 15.6 percent of all volunteering hours (Table 3). On the other hand, those who volunteer for both congregations and secular causes are 20.3 percent of all volunteers, yet they provide 31.4 percent of all hours. Further, there are vast differences in the amount of time each group volunteers per month, 10.4 and 23.0 hours, respectively.

Volunteering for Secular Organizations

People who volunteer with secular organizations may or may not also volunteer with religious congregations. A majority of secular volunteers, regardless of whether they are also involved with a religious congregation, volunteer at only one secular organization.

Both religious congregation and secular volunteers give an average of about 10 hours per month to their

secular cause, with religious volunteers giving an *additional* 9.9 hours per month to their religious cause. Both religious and secular volunteers show the same level of commitment to the secular activity (Figure 12).

Overall, secular volunteers average 14.1 hours per month of volunteering activity, while religious volunteers only average 10.4 hours. However, those who volunteer at both religious and secular organizations average a total of 23.0 hours per month, 13.7 to other causes and 9.3 to religion (Figure 13).

There are four areas, apart from religious congregations, where religious volunteers are most likely to volunteer: health, human services, youth, and education. Religious volunteers also volunteer at other kinds of secular organizations, but the limitations of sample size prevent further analysis (Figure 14).

ALL	Volunteer at Both Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations		People Who Volunteer at Secular Organizations Only
	VOLUNTEER AT RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS	VOLUNTEER AT SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS	
23.0 hours	9.3 hours	13.7 hours	14.1 hours
31.4%	12.7%	18.9%	52.9%
66.7%	27.1%	39.7%	
100.0%	40.5%	59.4%	

Figure 13 Monthly Volunteer Hours to Religious Congregations and Secular Organizations for All Volunteers

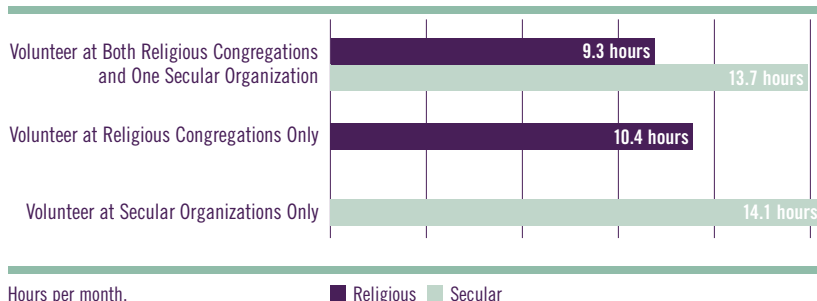


Figure 14 Top Secular Causes for Volunteers to Religious Congregations



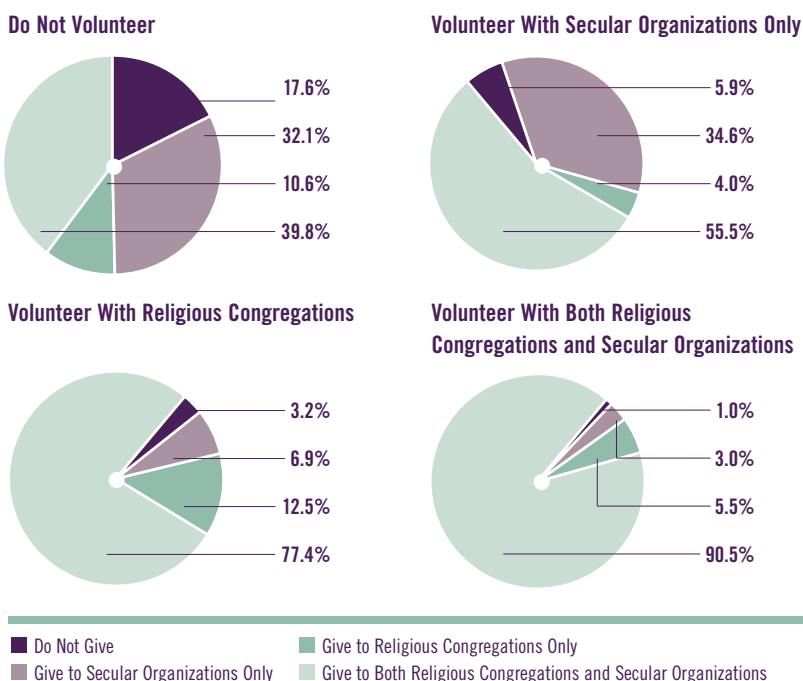
Percent of annual volunteers to religious congregations.

The Relationship Between Giving, Volunteering, and Religion

As in past surveys, this report reaffirms that volunteers are the best contributors. There is a compelling relationship between people who give to and volunteer with religious congregations and their overall commitment to giving and volunteering. People who volunteer with religious congregations are most likely to give to both religious and secular causes (Figure 15).

Over 90 percent of the people who volunteer with both religious congregations and secular organizations give financial contributions to both religious and secular organizations. Clearly, their involvement in helping their communities is exhibited by both their giving and volunteering behavior.

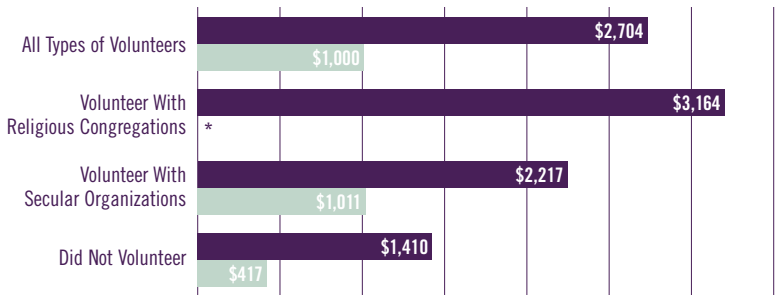
Figure 15 Household Giving by Individual Volunteering Status



These people tend to volunteer with at least two different organizations, one religious and one secular, and they come from households that give in a similar fashion. In contrast, less than 10 percent of all people who volunteer at both congregations and secular organizations do not also give to both types of organizations. Volunteers committed enough to volunteer to both also give to both. Of those people who volunteer only with religious congregations, 77.4 percent give to religious and secular organizations,

and another 12.5 percent give to religion only. Even people who do not volunteer at a house of worship are most likely to give to both congregations and secular organizations, with 55.5 percent of secular volunteers coming from households that give to both. Of households whose members do not volunteer at all, 39.8 percent nonetheless give to both religious congregations and other organizations. In contrast, over 17 percent of all non-volunteers are from non-giving households.

Figure 16 Average Annual Household Contributions for Giving Households With Volunteers



* Too few cases to report. ■ Religious Givers ■ Non-Religious Givers

Giving

The findings for religious-giving households with volunteers to religion are clear and powerful, showing how strongly religious involvement influences charitable behavior. Religious-giving households with volunteers give more than both secular-giving households with volunteers and religious-giving households without volunteers. Further, religious-giving households with volunteers to religion give more than do religious-giving households with people who volunteer only to secular organizations, who in turn give more than secular-giving households with secular-only volunteers (Figure 16).

Households that give to and volunteer at religious congregations give an annual average of \$3,164, the highest of the giving and volunteering combinations examined for

this section. In stark contrast, contributing households that do not give to religion and have no volunteers give only \$417 annually.

Religious-giving households with volunteers give substantially more than do their counterpart, secular-giving households with volunteers (\$2,704 and \$1,000, respectively). Further, the \$2,704 average seen in religious-giving households with volunteers is considerably more than the \$1,410 given by religious-giving households without volunteers. As further evidence of the impact of faith-based involvement, the \$1,410 annual contribution of religious-giving households without volunteers is higher than the annual contribution of \$1,000 by secular-giving households with volunteers (Figure 16). Among households that give to religious congregations, the highest annual contribution

Table 4 Monthly Volunteer Hours for Giving Households, by Volunteer Category

	Households Giving to Religious Congregations		Households Giving to Secular Organizations	
	AVERAGE MONTHLY HOURS	PERCENT OF TOTAL HOURS	AVERAGE MONTHLY HOURS	PERCENT OF TOTAL HOURS
All Volunteers	15.4 hours	76.9%	14.1 hours	23.1%
Volunteers at Religious Congregations	16.7 hours	96.0%	11.1 hours	4.0%
Volunteers at Secular Organizations Only	13.9 hours	59.8%	14.4 hours	40.2%

comes from those who also have religious volunteers (\$3,164), followed by those with secular volunteers (\$2,217), and then those that do not have volunteers (\$1,410). Again, the basic findings are reaffirmed: Giving and volunteering go together, and faith-based involvement has a measurable influence on the basic giving and volunteering relationship.

Volunteering

About 75 percent of all volunteering hours come from people who live in religious-giving households (Table 4). Once again, the significance of the relationship between giving, volunteering, and faith-based involvement is apparent.

Further evidence of this linkage can be found by examining volunteers from religious-giving

households who volunteered with religious congregations. Fully 96 percent of all hours given by people who volunteered at congregations came from households that also donated to religion. These people may have also given and/or volunteered at other, secular organizations. In contrast, only 4.0 percent of the total volunteering hours by people who volunteered at congregations came from people who did not also give to religion.

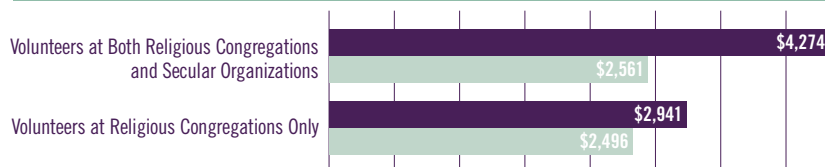
This trend extends to volunteers who did not volunteer at religious congregations. Nearly 60 percent of volunteering hours given by people who did not volunteer at congregations came from households that did give to religion.

Family Involvement

The more involved the entire family is in volunteering, the more generous the household (Figure 17). This analysis is based on just those households in which the annual household contribution was to both religious congregations and secular organizations, and further limited to those from which the respondent was a volunteer.

In all three volunteer groups—volunteers to both religious congregations and secular organizations, volunteers to religion only, and volunteers to secular organizations only—those households that reported family involvement in volunteering give more than those that did not report family involvement.

Figure 17 Relationship of Family Volunteering and Annual Household Contribution



Question: Do family members volunteer? ■ Yes ■ No

Average annual contribution by households giving to both religious congregations and secular organizations.

Figure 18 Relationship of Family Volunteering and Average Monthly Volunteer Hours



Based on households contributing to both religious congregations and secular organizations where respondent volunteered.

Almost two-thirds of all households that give to both religious congregations and secular organizations in which the respondent volunteered reported that family members were also volunteers, giving almost three-quarters of all money donated by these types of households.

The most involved and the most generous were households that gave and volunteered at both religious congregations and secular organizations. When the family is involved in volunteering, the average annual household contribution is \$4,274, almost 70 percent greater than the \$2,561 average for the same types of households without family volunteers.

Family involvement corresponds with religious involvement. When the household gives to both religious congregations and secular organizations and the family was involved in volunteering, the average hours volunteered by the respondent was 16.4 per month. This compares to similar households in which the family did not also volunteer, where the respondent averaged 11.8 hours. The 16.4 hours volunteered by the respondent did not include the hours given by family members, so this study underestimates the true contribution these giving households make (Figure 18).

Conclusion

Givers and volunteers to religious congregations are more generous with their money and time than those not motivated to support religion. This conclusion crosses income categories, remaining valid even when economic status is taken into account.

The most generous are those households that both give and volunteer to religious congregations, expressing their beliefs, values, and commitments by contributing both money and time to causes that are important to them.

Givers to religious congregations donate substantially more than do givers to secular causes only. They are at least as generous, if not more

so, toward secular organizations than are people who give only to secular causes. Volunteers for both religious congregations and secular organizations give more time than volunteers to only religious organizations or only secular organizations.

Faith-based generosity, whether measured in terms of dollars or time, is real, measurable, and carries considerable impact.





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