

**Charity for Change**  
**School “Giver” Program Evaluation**  
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## Executive Summary

Charity for Change is a non-profit organization devoted to teaching children about giving, volunteering and positive character traits. Its School “Giver” Program, offered at no cost to the schools, delivers a comprehensive, proprietary, standards-based curriculum contributing to student academic achievement, character development and community engagement.

The focus of the School “Giver” Program is to provide children in grades K through 5 with the opportunity to learn about charities, practice positive behavior, and develop the understanding that they have the capacity to give and help others as a member of their community, regardless of their socioeconomic status. More than 60% of the 3,500 students currently participating in the 30-week, classroom-based program are categorized as “economically needy,” according to Collier County Public Schools demographic data.

Community involvement includes program sponsors who financially support the initiative and also participate in program activities at the schools as well as classroom visits by many of the 72 charities presented to the students for their review and selection.

Upon completion of its fourth year in several local schools, the organization commissioned a third-party-led study to determine the impact of the School “Giver” Program on three primary areas: **1) Student Academic Achievement; 2) Character Development; and 3) Community Engagement.** The study was designed to determine the fidelity and effectiveness of the program using both existing data and data generated using new research tools. Results of the study confirmed the organization’s use of solid research-based strategies supporting all program components. Specifically, data proved the value of the program in:

- building and maintaining positive school cultures
- contributing to the preparation for students in regards to Florida state math testing
- increasing students’ awareness of community charities and the concept of giving

Moreover, the study illustrated the increased value of the program in schools that embraced the implementation of the School “Giver” Program with high levels of fidelity as documented in their School Improvement Plans. This data showed that implementing Charity for Change:

- increases the likelihood of improvement in student achievement on the FCAT math test
- contributes to increased school grades, especially between the ranges of C and A
- contributes to the schools’ ability to earn a Gold Positive Behavior Support Model school award, especially because of its community involvement piece and its contribution to enhancing Tier 1 School-Wide Positive Behavior Support

With this data showing proof of concept, Charity for Change is poised to obtain funding and expand into all local elementary schools.

