

GROWING UP GENEROUS

Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving

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This groundbreaking addition to Alban's acclaimed Money, Faith, and Lifestyle Series creates a mosaic of what is happening – and could happen – in American Jewish and Christian congregations to cultivate in young people a deep and lasting commitment to giving and serving. Based on a two-year project by the Search Institute, a nonprofit research and education organization that specializes in the healthy development of children and adolescents, *Growing Up Generous* recognizes and highlights the roles of various congregational leaders (not only youth leaders) in shaping the attitudes of young people.

The first four chapters provide a context and rationale for a more vigorous and comprehensive approach to the issue of giving and serving among youth. The book shows how a wide range of factors have shaped the current state of youth giving and serving, including some of the differences across faith traditions and examines the current scope of congregational efforts as well as barriers to greater effectiveness.

The last three chapters suggest how congregations can be more focused and effective in encouraging young people to give and serve. This task involves more than “teaching.” The book proposes that a true commitment to giving and serving requires exploring how all aspects of congregational life – from norms to relationships to activities to belief systems – shape young people's commitments.

This book recognizes and highlights the roles of the many people in a congregation who help shape young people's attitudes and commitments toward giving and serving. They include clergy (pastors, rabbis, priests), lay leaders responsible for stewardship, members of congregational service, missions, or social justice committees, and, of course, leaders in youth and family programming.

Regardless of the reader's role or position in a congregation, this book will be most useful in the hands of an individual – a champion – with a passion and commitment to challenging congregations to address youth giving and serving in creative, comprehensive and continuing ways.

Chapter titles include: Nurturing Generosity as a Way of Life; Obstacles to Addressing Money and Giving with Youth; and Creating a Culture of Generosity.

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