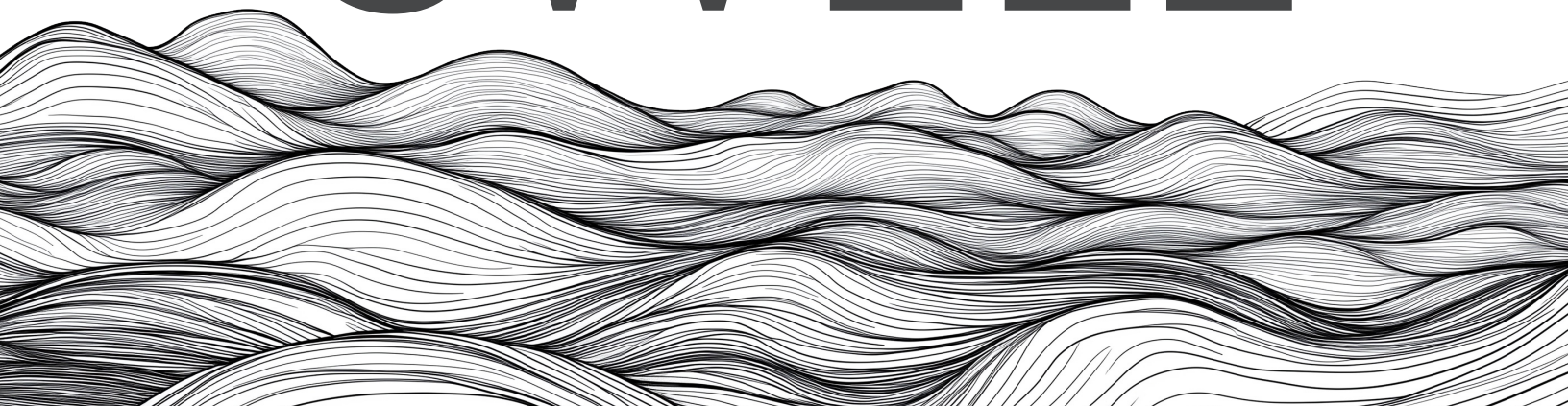


# SWELL



Swell is gatherings of women  
where together we contemplate ideas that  
can guide our own personal giving.

A space for meaningful philosophical discussion  
exploring motivations, destinations, and balance.

To find impactful ways to contribute,  
so each of us can give more significantly,  
purposefully, and effectively.



\* SWELL is not about asking for donations, promoting specific causes,  
or selling products. It is not tied to any agenda other than creating a space  
for women to gather and explore their individual potential for giving.

**Created with belief in the magnificence of women's generosity  
by Julie Dawson, Founder, and the SWELL team.**

**[SWELLgatherings.org](http://SWELLgatherings.org)**

## *Why we gather...*

We are in an era where needs for everything globally are escalating, and it's costing more and more to address these needs. In the US, women are now the most generous donors. We are also entering an era where women will hold more than two-thirds of wealth in the United States, setting the stage for us to grow our philanthropic impact.

*We all give! ...* with or without a plan. We all have different experiences that determine why, how much, and to whom we choose to give. Being concerned about needs, through SWELL gatherings we women can make a bigger difference with our individual donations. In our conversation today, we will talk together, philosophically, and practically of the various aspects of personal giving.

# 1 } EXPLORING THE REASONS FOR GIVING

Why do we give?? We women see needs and naturally pitch in. We are the nurturers, the initiators, the volunteers of time and abilities. We also choose where we give our money; to keep effective programs running, to support issues, to start new projects and to make change. Because... We Get Things Done! So, what are our motivations for financial giving?

### **Questions to guide the discussion** ~

1. What personal experiences or gratitude drive you to give?
2. How do traditions, social norms, or external appeals influence your giving?
3. Do you give to support your own cause or to advance a valued mission?
4. How do emotions like heartstrings, concern, or joy motivate your giving?
5. What impact, sense of purpose, or desire for recognition makes giving fulfilling for you?
6. How do special occasions, honoring others, or lending your name in support inspire your generosity?

# 2 } GIVING WITH PURPOSE

Whether we are starting fresh, building on what's already in place, discovering new needs, or reimagining everything, we need to combine curiosity, concern, and good sense to align our resources with the causes that mean most to us. Using our abilities to evaluate, how do we consider and rate types of needs/causes to determine the value of our donations?

**Questions to guide the discussion** ~

1. Do you feel drawn to supporting family – children, elderly care, or medical needs?
2. Are you compelled to give more spontaneously – in response to urgent needs like disasters, emergencies, or crowdfunding efforts?
3. Do your personal values or personal causes – such as faith, animal welfare, or healthcare, etc.. guide your philanthropy?
4. Are you passionate about national issues and challenges like education, disease research, or child welfare?
5. Do social & political concerns like civil rights, poverty, gender equality, or local policies drive your giving decisions?
6. Are you motivated to support global issues like climate change, humanitarian crises, or immigration?

## 3 } FINDING BALANCE

Effective giving means prioritizing where we can make the greatest impact, with a balanced plan. There is more to donating than writing a check. What peripheral elements do we need to consider?

**Questions to guide the discussion** ~

1. How do you decide what percentage of your resources to allocate to giving while maintaining financial balance?
2. How do you assess the value of your donations – to both the world and yourself?
3. Are there causes you want to add, drop, or adjust your level of support for?
4. Do you prefer to specify how your gift is used, such as for research, operations, or special programs?
5. Do you need guidance or more knowledge to make your giving as effective as possible?
6. How do you want to structure your giving—both during your lifetime and as part of your legacy?

## 4} MAKING WAVES

Thank you for coming today. We hope that the conversation brought new insight to women's generosity and finding new depth in personal giving.

### Questions to guide the discussion ~

1. What new insights about personal generosity do you have from this gathering?
2. Are there topics you'd like to explore further?
3. Would you encourage other women to consider these elements?
4. Would you like to host your own SWELL gathering?
5. A personal question to reflect on:  
Where would you like to stretch and be more impactful with your donations?
6. LASTLY - Write one step you will take after this gathering:

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## 5} NEXT STEPS

### Continue meeting with your SWELL group ~

Pursue this subject in more depth. Or add on with additional aspects of women's generosity

### Host your own SWELL gathering ~

Gather your own group of friends or strangers to spread the SWELL idea. Invite participants to be Gatherers to spread SWELL even more.

**SWELLgatherings.org**

### Continue on a personal journey ~

go to SWELLgatherings.org and download the 'Mapping Your Giving Journey' pdf. It is designed to help you make a plan for your giving roadmap with ideas for your own personal use at home.

