Women’s Philanthropy Institute
Charitable Giving & Life Satisfaction: Does Gender Matter?

What We Wanted to Understand:
- Does the “joy of giving” affect all individuals and households equally?
- Does the impact of giving on overall happiness vary by gender?

What We Learned:

Giving Makes Us All Happy. Across marital status, giving to charitable organizations is positively related to a household’s happiness.

Changes in Giving Habits Affect Men and Women Differently. For single women and married couples, the more a household gives as a percentage of income, the higher the household’s satisfaction.

This Impact Is Greater in Lower- and Middle-Income Households. For households where charitable decisions are driven by women and more than two percent of their incomes are given to charity, households making less than $100,000 per year experience more of a boost in happiness from giving than those making more.

Income ≤ $100,000
- Increase in happiness: 2.70%

Income > $100,000
- Increase in happiness: 0.52%

Findings and conclusions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official positions or policies of the funders.

For the full report visit: https://philanthropy.iupui.edu/womengive