



foundation for sustainable development presents ...



# GIVING CIRCLES

“FSD Giving Circles create partnerships between donors in the U.S. and communities in the developing world by active engagement with innovative grassroots organizations and exceptional social entrepreneurs”

## What is an FSD Giving Circle?

A giving circle is a community of donors who are looking for a more engaged form of philanthropy. Members join together and pool their funds to provide grants to projects. During series of meetings the members acquire knowledge about pressing issues affecting global communities, meet with expert speakers, discuss articles and other curriculum materials, and review a portfolio of grant proposals. Through a collaborative grantmaking process, the group works together to decide on grant awards.

Giving Circles have the option to travel to the country of focus and meet with potential grantees in person to see the potential impact of their generosity.

## How does FSD support Giving Circles?

FSD partners with hundreds of community development organizations at our ten sites in six countries, and is the bridge between your circle and grassroots organizations. FSD provides training resources in sustainable community development approaches and ethical grantmaking to circle members:

- According to the Circle's geographic and/or issue interest, FSD solicits proposals from a selection of their 300+ grassroots partners, and vets proposals for consideration by the Circle
- FSD provides the Circle with logistical support by:
  - Offering step-by-step guidance for creating and hosting a circle via the Giving Circle
  - Providing a toolkit and personal support from FSD staff, including meeting facilitation guidelines and tips
  - Linking hosts with FSD Giving Circle alumni for additional support
  - Arranging for guest speakers
  - Creating Circle-specific curriculum
  - Offering tax-deductible donations through 501c3 Tax status
  - After funding, FSD monitors projects and shares reports back to the Giving Circle

There is a 15% fee on all funds raised to cover expenses related to merchant fees, administration, and facilitation of the giving circle.

## STEPS:



Join participants from your community or across the US to pool your donations together and make a grant fund



Build your knowledge of development topics and grantmaking process



Learn about the world's most challenging development issues — some circles travel to meet partners firsthand



Discuss prospective grantees & beneficiaries, explore the beauty & culture of these countries, and make final grant decisions

If you are looking for a more engaged way to contribute to social change, Giving Circles are a meaningful way to educate your local community about issues and connect with global communities.

For more information, visit [www.fsdinternational.org/givingcircle](http://www.fsdinternational.org/givingcircle) or contact Anna Welton at [anna@fsdinternational.org](mailto:anna@fsdinternational.org)