The first quarter of a new year provides an excellent opportunity to assess your family philanthropy practices and plan for a “tune up,” if necessary. Together with your family, ask yourselves the following questions:

What did we do with our philanthropy last year?
Be sure to count gifts of time, talent, treasure, and testimony. How much of each did you devote? How did you divide your various gifts among the causes and issues that are important to you? Did your pattern of giving and volunteering match your intent?

What did we learn from our philanthropic activities?
Perhaps you heard of new problems to address, met new people making a difference, or learned of solutions to the causes that matter to you. Take stock of these lessons, and put your learning into further action. Also ask yourself “what was surprising?” and “what was missing?”

How did we help?
Whether you gave time or money (or both), you selected organizations and causes you wanted to support. Did you change something? Make something new? Support something time-honored and important? Evaluate your efforts and your impact.

What’s next?
Once you’ve evaluated your past activities, you can better plan the next steps. Setting goals together and honoring all the voices of your multi-generational group will help you start the year with focus. Tip: establish at least two tangible goals to complete by the end of March and engage your family with a combination of vision and assigned tasks.

The Philanthropic Services Group is eager to assist you with your personal, family, or corporate philanthropic goals. Please call 303.300.1790 for ideas or an appointment.

**Don Buckman: His Generosity Plays On**

Don was a professional pianist and singer, known for wearing his signature tuxedo while he entertained guests in Denver-area hotels. As much as he loved playing professionally, his passion for music was a gift he offered to family and friends, whom he often entertained in his home. Sarah Harrison, The Denver Foundation’s Deputy Vice President of Philanthropic Services, says: “Every time I visited with him, he would start our time together by playing me a few songs on the piano! He was very accomplished.”

All who knew Don well were not surprised when he requested that in lieu of a memorial service, a celebratory dinner be held to honor his life. His close friend Wayne Hobson granted his wish and hosted the elegant evening in December 2014. The evening included close friends, who dined and toasted Don with special stories of his life and generosity.

While music and entertaining were the thread that tied Don together with family, friends, and community during his life, he worked to ensure that he could continue his legacy of generosity after his death.

After his longtime partner, Ralph Terry, died in 2004, he created a testamentary fund at The Denver Foundation that would support issues that were important to them. Within a year of receiving Don’s estate gift, the Ralph Terry and Donald Buckman Designated Fund will make grants to four nonprofit organizations that were important to Don and Ralph during their lives. This way their commitment to their community will live on in perpetuity.

The Denver Foundation is honored that Don Buckman chose our organization to steward his philanthropic legacy.