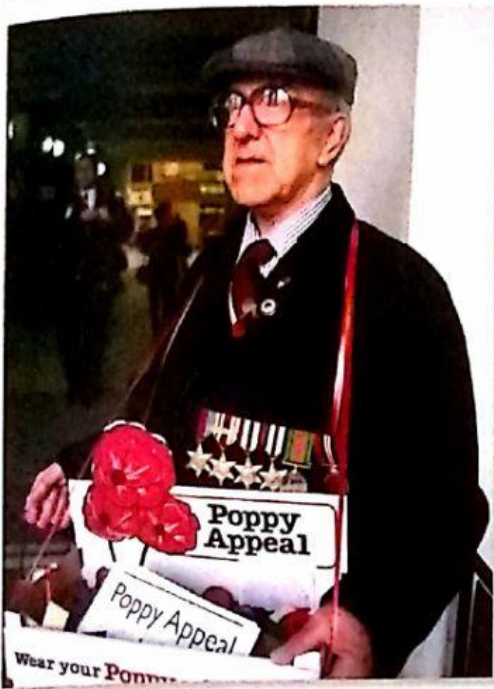


Could you spare some change, please?

What motivates you to give or deny money to people in need? We hit the streets of Manchester to find out your views.



A Tom (30)

Whenever I see a fundraising event on TV to raise money for a tsunami or an earthquake or whatever, I am always moved at how generous people are, particularly those who are worse off. The phone lines are constantly jammed with people making donations. I do think the amount of coverage world disasters are given on TV really helps – it really brings it all home to you and allows you to empathise with what the victims are going through. But of course it's not only about giving money, although obviously that is a key part of it; I've often wished that I had medical or engineering skills to offer, so that I could actually go and do what I can to help the relief effort. I'm more unwilling though to just give money to beggars and people on the streets because I don't think this helps solve the problem long-term, and in fact could encourage more people to sleep rough.

B Yvette (26)

I can never pass anyone in the street holding a collection tin without asking myself whether or not I should give. I sometimes feel reluctant if it's for medical research or the homeless – isn't that what I pay my taxes for, why should I pay extra? But on the other hand £1.00 isn't that much and if everyone gave just a little, then we wouldn't have all these problems. I read in a magazine that the average person only gives 1% of what they earn to charity, which means they spend 99% on

themselves! However, I do worry that some charities have become so big that they are perhaps spending too much on bureaucracy instead of sending it directly to those who need it.

C Jeanette (57)

I really applaud those people who actively do something for charity, you know, like a car boot sale or a sponsored walk. Sometimes I think about taking part in something like that, but thinking is all I do – I never seem to find the time to actually do it! To tell the truth, I think that most of us need to have a personal reason for getting involved in raising money for a good cause, such as knowing someone who has a certain disease or something. I do give money to charity collectors on the street whenever I have change, but if I'm honest, that's because I feel ashamed walking on past them when the rain is pouring down and they've given up their own time. What I really must do, though, is amend my will so that when I die I can leave some of my money to a charity. I've been putting off doing this as I just can't decide which charity to leave it to.

D Graham (45)

Rather than just giving change to homeless people on the street from time to time, I think it is much better and far more useful to make a regular monthly donation to one particular charity of your preference. I get really annoyed with the charity collectors who stand outside shops and swoop on you, asking you for money for this cause and that cause, trying to make you feel guilty if you say no. I also disapprove of all those junk letters you get, you know, with photos of starving children or animals in pain or whatever. I feel that they are almost trying to exploit you – it's a kind of emotional blackmail. It's up to me after all who I donate money to and I actually make a point of giving to organisations that get less publicity rather than the trendy ones that are linked to celebrities.

E Laura (35)

I wouldn't have any money at all if I gave money to every charity collector on every street corner! Where does it stop? That's why I don't do it. And I've stopped feeling guilty and giving myself a hard time about it because I do feel that I do my fair share to help the community in other ways. I'm on the board of governors at my daughter's school, I donate blood three times a year and I work as a volunteer in a retirement home. I also give our old clothes and toys to the local charity shop. I think that some people only give money to charity simply to ease their conscience rather than really wanting to help those they are giving it to. The same goes for those celebrities who get a lot of publicity because they are associated with a charity. Who benefits more – the celebrity or the charity?

3 a For questions 1–15 choose from the people (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once. The first question is done for you.

Which person

- admires people that collect money for charity?
- thinks some people support charities out of self-interest?
- believes that giving money directly to individuals in need is not the best solution?
- resents feeling pressured into giving money?
- suspects that some charities don't make the best use of their money?
- has mixed feelings about giving to street collectors?
- contributes to society in non-financial ways?
- is impressed by the general public's generosity after a disaster?
- prefers to support less 'fashionable' charities?
- intends to make a charitable donation on his/her death?
- used to feel guilty about not giving money to charity?
- thinks the Government should be doing what some charities do?
- is of the view that the average person doesn't give enough?
- admits they have given money out of a feeling of guilt?

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