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## LONG ON CASH, SHORT ON RECIPIENTS? TRY PHILANTHROPY

By James Warren, Tribune Staff Writer.

Well, it is not exactly Dave Barry's annual, and hilarious, gift-giving guide. But the November-December issue of *Philanthropy* is worth a look for holiday buying tips -- as long as you have gargantuan sums of money to donate to a charitable cause.

This publication of the **Philanthropy Roundtable** is geared to grantmakers, namely those lucky souls who are in the position of doling out big bucks for hopefully good ends. Last year, it unveiled its first holiday gift guide and response was good enough that it's doing it one more time.

The winners, so to speak, are 14 programs that "deserve your support," in this case a rather eclectic group of non-profit groups nationwide that stress self-reliance. "They're effective, they're efficient, and they deserve your support," is the very simple declaration of the common denominators.

For example, there is Enterprise Mentors International, based in Chesterfield, Mo., whose aim is to provide economic analysis, counsel and low-interest loans to poor, yet promising entrepreneurs in the Third World, mostly the Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico and El Salvador.

Its supposedly typical recipients are two sisters in Guatemala City who sought help for a new business of sewing and selling baby clothes. They had borrowed \$1,200 from area loan sharks but were stumbling in paying back that money.

Through EMI, they were able to attend business and bookkeeping training seminars, develop a long-range business plan and receive loans of \$260 each. That sounds like a pittance but it was critical to them and, a short time later, their sales were way up.

Another winner this year is the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation of Chicago, which helps send kids from poor neighborhoods to leading private high schools. It offers what are known as leveraged scholarships to private schools willing to enter a partnership deal by which the foundation pays \$3,000 a year for a student's tuition, with the diversity-hungry schools picking up the rest (a student's family might pay from \$800 to \$1,000).

The program started in 1989 and now enrolls 430 students at 56 schools, including Chicago day schools, not just fancy eastern prep schools such as Deerfield Academy and Hotchkiss. The overall graduation rate is 97 percent and, last year, the percentage of those receiving diplomas and going on to college was a perfect 100.

The other winners are LifeChange of Portland, Ore., which deals with drug addicts; Second Helpings of Indianapolis, which feeds hungry children and adults with food that would otherwise go to waste; St. Francis de Sales School in Philadelphia, said to be a model for successful diversity; National Braille Press of Boston, which has leveled the playing field when it comes to the traditionally high prices for Braille books; and Food on Foot of Beverly Hills, a conduit for food to the homeless.

In addition, the magazine heralds Bridge of Hope of Coatesville, Pa., a middleman between the homeless and church communities; the Northwest Center of Washington, D.C., a model in dealing with the staggering number of poor and single mothers in the nation's capital; Gateway Community Services of East Lansing, Mich., a social service provider (free medical clinics, a shelter for runaways, a drug abuse center ) for young people; the Center for Developmental Services in Greenville, S.C., an all-purpose, one-stop center for children in crisis, notably the developmentally disabled; the Benedictine School for Exceptional Children in Ridgely, Md., another full-service center, this for mentally disabled kids; MedShare International of Lithonia, Ga., which corrals the tons of medical supplies and equipment ditched by hospitals and redirects them to doctors and nurses in Third World lands; and Carson Scholars Fund of Towson, Md., a privately funded scholarship program, aimed to laud outstanding elementary through high school students via scholarships for college.

And even if you don't have a seven-figure bank account, feel free this season to just pick up the phone and contact this year's winners.