

## PHILANTHROPISTS

### **Andrew Carnegie—Libraries**

Between 1875 and 1901, Andrew Carnegie made a fortune in the steel industry. He used some of that money to fund the building of nearly 3,000 libraries around the world. Before he would build a library for a town, though, he required the residents to show the need for one. They also had to provide the building site and show they could afford to keep the library open. Many women’s groups across the nation and in other countries led book drives and fundraising efforts to bring libraries to their communities.

### **Walt Disney—California Institute of the Arts**

The California Institute of the Arts was founded by Walt Disney in the early 1960s. Disney, a cartoonist and theme park builder, contributed the money to build the school. It was the first college in the United States to grant degrees in both visual and performing arts. Disney’s dream was to provide a school where artists and musicians of all kinds could come together to share a wide range of artistic expression. To be accepted into the school, students must show creative talent and future potential.

### **Mother Teresa—Missionaries of Charity**

Mother Teresa, who was born in 1910 in Macedonia, taught others to give “wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor.” This Catholic nun started soup kitchens, counseling programs, orphanages, and schools in the poorest neighborhoods of India. She started the foundation The Missionaries of Charity, which continues to run homes and hospices for those sick and dying. Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She died in 1997.

### **Paul Rusesabagina—Rwanda**

In 1994, in Rwanda, Africa, a rebel group began to massacre members of an opposing tribe. Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, helped to hide and house 1,268 refugees who would otherwise have been killed. He used his position within the hotel to protect his neighbors and their families during rebel attacks and get them to safety outside the country. He was an ordinary man who showed great courage and did what was right during a terrifying time when at least 800,000 people were killed.

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### John Muir—Sierra Club

John Muir sailed to San Francisco in 1868 as a young man looking for work. He began traveling throughout the state of California and fell in love with the beauty of the mountains. He wrote about the splendor of the Sierra Nevada and encouraged Congress to protect the mountain range. In 1892, he and some friends founded the Sierra Club, which has become one of the most important conservation groups in the United States. Muir wrote essays and books and encouraged others to preserve wilderness areas.

### Henry and Edsel Ford—Ford Foundation

Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903. He created the first mass-produced car in 1908; invented the first moving assembly line in 1913; and in 1914 more than doubled the wages of his workers to \$5 a day. Some experts have said he helped create America's middle class by paying his workers a fair wage. The Ford Foundation was started in 1936 by his son, Edsel, to make sure some funds from the company were set aside for public welfare. The Ford Foundation contributed to public broadcasting to help produce the popular children's TV show *Sesame Street*.

### Maya Angelou—Poet

Maya Angelou was a black poet and author who performed in dance, theater, movies, and television. The books and poetry she wrote have helped people understand each other. She encouraged people to look past race and other divisions. She traveled around the world spreading her gift of writing and her message of civil rights for all. She died in 2014.