Philanthropy vs. Community Service vs. Awareness

Civic engagement encompasses a variety of events and initiatives which can take many forms. Use this document to best define your event or initiative – it is possible for your event to fall under more than one of these categories.

Community Service

- “action taken to meet the needs of others and to better the community as a whole” (Campus Compact, 1998). It can be further defined as “non-compensated activities that are organized in partnership with a non-profit organization and directly benefit the larger public or external community.”
  - Example: Going to the Ronald McDonald House to help clean and cook dinner

Philanthropy

- “the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money [or goods] to good causes.”
  - Example: Hosting a barbeque to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House

Awareness Event

- “a sustained effort to educate individuals and boost public awareness about an organization’s cause or issue.”
  - Example: Hosting a program/week geared towards a specific issue, such as masculinity, poverty, the challenges immigrants to our country face, etc.

Need additional help? Contact your council officer or McKenzie Walsh, Coordinator of Sorority and Fraternity Engagement at mwalsh1@iastate.edu