

## **2022-2023 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set**

To learn more about this event, please visit:

<https://www.ethicsatkentplace.org/student-programs/middle-school-ethics-bowl>

### **Cases Written by the Writing Committee:**

Ayushi Wadhwa (middle school student), Ben Who (high school student),  
Claire Cherill (high school student), John Rockwell (middle school teacher),  
Juliet Schwartz (high school student), Matt Ferguson (committee  
member), and Sonia Nikhil (middle school student)

### **And edited for final approval by the Middle School Ethics Bowl**

#### **Executive Committee:**

Ariel Sykes, Deric Barber, Dustin Webster, Erik Kenyon, Karen Rezach, Matt  
Ferguson, Michael Vazquez, and Roberta Israeloff

### **Case 3: Donation Dilemma**

Patrick, a middle school student, grew up in a family surrounded by art. His father works as a professional painter, and his mother is a singer. Every month, his family donates a portion of their income to a local art gallery that uses the money to fund trips for homeless youth to visit the gallery for free. Patrick's father used to be homeless himself, so he feels a calling to donate to this cause.

In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. The war caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II: around 6.7 million Ukrainians fled the shelling and destruction of their homes. Patrick, who has been keeping up with the news, is shocked by the brutality and wants to do something to help. He decides to hold a bake sale at school to raise money for Ukraine and will donate the proceeds to a local Ukrainian nonprofit that supports families fleeing the war.

Patrick's father is very supportive of Patrick's initiative and applauds his plan to hold a bake sale. When Patrick asks his father to divert the family's monthly donation from the art gallery to the Ukrainian nonprofit, his father hesitates. Patrick's father understands that donating to the Ukrainian organization is more immediately important, and that it might even save some lives. On the other hand, Patrick's father doesn't feel as strong of an obligation to the Ukrainian refugees as he does to the homeless youth that he's supporting with the donations to the art gallery.

**Match Question: What should Patrick's father consider before making his final decision about where to donate his money?**

**Study Questions:**

1. What are Patrick's father's options in this case?
2. How should we go about determining which causes are more important to support? Who should decide which causes are most important?
3. Are we morally obligated to donate to the more important causes?

*Inspired by the National High School Ethics Bowl Case:*