



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY

My chosen person of commitment Charles Francis (Chuck) Feeney

Charles Francis Feeney is an Irish-American businessman and philanthropist (born 23 April 1931), who made his fortune as a co-founder of the Duty Free Shoppers Group. He is the founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the world. Feeney gave away his fortune in secret for many years, until a business dispute resulted in his identity being revealed in 1997. Feeney has given away more than \$8 billion.



Why I chose to research this person?

Feeney believes that you should not wait for death to give your capital. According to Bill Gates (founder of Microsoft), "Feeney is the perfect role model and the best example of how you can do good in life." I've read a lot about this man, and he is a wonderful person - 89-year-old tycoon Charles Feeney has been doing anonymous charity for many years - until the money ran out! This made me wonder what had influenced him to do such an amazing thing and what or who inspired his actions and beliefs.

How Chuck Feeney shows his commitment?

One of Charles Feeney's greatest prides is the University of Limerick, home to the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, a newly opened medical school and a sports ground that is used to support hundreds of students. This establishment is one of the finest in Ireland and owes its existence solely to Feeney.

"One chilly summer day, 81-year-old Chuck Feeney slowly and carefully stepped onto the platform of Houston Station in Dublin. He returned from the University of Limerick, which now has 13,000 students. The university owes its existence solely to Feeney's willpower, his influence and insight, and, of course, to his \$ 170 million grant. Feeney limps to the turnstiles, with one hand holding on to the fence, with the other clutching a



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY

bag of newspapers. This man has done perhaps more for Ireland than anyone else since St. Patrick! Feeney limps slowly towards the exit, unnoticed. And believe me, this lack of attention is very, very much to his liking. " So, Stephen Bertoni, Forbes Contributor, wrote about meeting him.

He is also a sponsor of Trinity College, which has everything from his gift shop, a genetics research center to a neuroscience lab with innovative research - this is also his handiwork.

How he made a positive impact on the world?

As a philanthropist, he pioneered the Giving While Living initiative in 2010, a call for the world's richest people to donate at least half of their fortune to large-scale philanthropic programs while alive, not after death. "We still won't be able to take the money with us to the grave - so what is the point of "sitting on it"? It is much more pleasant to see with your own eyes how people's lives have changed for the better thanks to you - try it and perhaps you'll love it!" - Feeney called on his colleagues from the rich club.

His words and a personal example of generosity and multiple investments have had great success - today, tens and hundreds of wealthy people are following him. "Chuck is a model for all of us," says Warren Buffett, another generous philanthropist. The Irish businessman does not just give out his money, but also thinks out strategies to attract philanthropists.

-Feeney- helped the victims of the earthquake in Haiti (\$ 250,000)

-He helped with the construction of a new medical camp
University of California (\$ 290 million).

-In 1997 Feeney invested \$ 226 million in the development of universities in Ireland. And this investment by The Atlantic Philanthropies brought \$ 1.3 billion in public money to Ireland's university education system. And the students received priceless copies of books, laboratories for research, teaching aids, and, accordingly, Ireland received literate and worthy specialists in response. Thanks to him, free opportunities have opened up for many students. Without him, Irish education today would look completely different, experts say.

-Feeney helped establish peace in Northern Ireland with a huge amount of money.

-- Through his efforts, the healthcare system in Vietnam was modernized - it became fairer and people throughout the country could receive quality medical care.

- At home in the United States, Feeney supported the campaign to accelerate the abolition of the death penalty for minors and helped children without health insurance get it.

Charles Feeney has committed \$ 76 million to support Obama's health care reform. He provided life- saving medicines to millions of people living with HIV / AIDS in South Africa.

In 2003, he joined a protest march in London against the invasion of Iraq.

Other big gifts in recent years include: \$ 177 million to find a cure for dementia in Ireland and California; \$ 176 million to the International Institute for Brain Health at the University of California, San Francisco; \$ 350 million to build a technology campus for students on Roosevelt Island in New York; \$ 100 million to open the state-of-the-art Mission Bay Hospital in San Francisco.

I would like to say - the list of noble deeds of this person is great. Through his selfless



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY

heart, his generosity, he influenced the world and changed it for the better.

What are the values that have influenced this person of commitment?

Charles Feeney was born in 1931, just as the Great Depression swept the country. Feeney's Irish-American family lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The mother worked as a nurse in the Red Cross, the father of the family was an insurance agent, in the conditions of the economic crisis, Feeney could hardly make ends meet.

Already in elementary school, Chuck began helping the family: doing neighborhood errands, removing snow, selling Christmas cards. As a teenager, Chuck Feeney became a military man - joined the US Air Force. Of all the Feeneys, Chuck was the first to go to college. In college, Feeney was nicknamed the "Sandwich Man" because of the side job - Chuck sold sandwiches to all of his classmates. After college in 1956, Charles continued his studies in France.

After graduating from high school at a Catholic monastery - he later recalled that the need for charity appeared in him thanks to the situation there. All this and school and college and military service and of course his own family without much income - all this left an imprint on all Feeney's beliefs and views. This life experience did not go unnoticed for Feeney. He understood that there are a lot of problems and grief in life.

The Feeney family professed the Catholic faith, and everyone knows that the Catholic religion, if it continues in the family, is based on religious traditions, this includes helping the weak and the sick, generosity to those in need and treating everyone with love (love your neighbour as yourself). Feeney's Catholic faith influenced him to help people, not only his loved ones, but anybody in need. And since Feeney's family was of the Catholic faith - the boy carried all this in his heart. He always helped people.

And when he began to earn completely different money, he did not lose this great human quality of kindness and mercy, he began to help people with great zeal. And yet - an example of a mother who, despite the very modest family income, always managed to reach out and support someone else. Chuck believes that his desire to help people was instilled in him by his mother, who worked in the Red Cross and never missed an opportunity to help those who really needed it.

What are the positive values that influence his life?

Charles Feeney is honest with everyone - everyone trusts him in return. Feeney never envies anyone - he is always happy for and proud of another person's accomplishments. Chuck is always content with little, and as a result, he is extremely generous - if anybody needs any financial help, he is always happy to lend a hand. It was even said that, when he was flying in an airplane and was reading the newspaper, if he saw someone in need of money, he would cut out the piece of paper and when he got the details of that person's whereabouts, he sent them money anonymously.

He gave everything for the good of people, demanding nothing from them in return.

-Amount (present): \$ 1.5 million.

-Total donations: \$ 6.3 billion.

-Generosity Index: 420 000%

What could be a better way of human generosity?



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY



He opened the first Atlantic Foundation in 1982, a foundation that stood out from the rest. And this is Feeney's main belief. This conviction and worldview - modesty - the foundation worked anonymously. Many companies that received donations did not know who gave them.

How his worldview and beliefs shaped his life

Worldview, convictions and faith are the most important components of a person's spiritual world. They are the fruit of intense searches, experiences, insights, doubts. And only by acquiring them, a person receives a solid ground under his feet. Charles Feeney grew up in a Catholic family with a deep conviction that helping people is a joy. The joy to see the eyes of a seriously ill person who received help! This feeling can never be forgotten! This belief was instilled in Charles by his mother. And he carried it all his life - protecting, helping people. His worldview played an important role in the life and affairs of Charles. It allowed him to formulate his goals, which he intends to achieve in the course of his activities. Charles accepted the world as it is, but with the education he received, with the values instilled by the Catholic family, he began to find the true values of life, to distinguish the really important from the unimportant. It was the worldview that helped to develop the meaning of life and work. All his life he wanted and achieved success, and with him financial achievements. And with the growth of prosperity, the conviction grew in the soul that this money should not be kept in banks - it should serve and help people. And Charles has lived his entire beautiful life with such necessary and wonderful beliefs and worldview.

My Enquiry

First of all, I needed to know as much information as possible about this person. I visited various sites on the Internet. I also watched various interviews with Charles Feeney on YouTube.

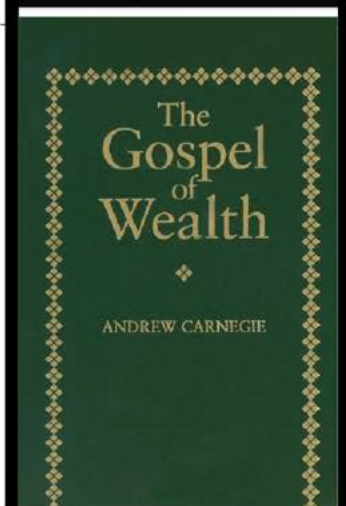
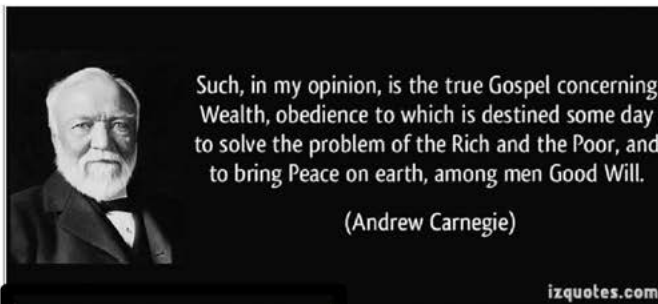
Where there was reliable information about him:

[Bay Area Council 2015 Business Hall of Fame: Chuck Feeney - YouTube](#)
[Chuck Feeney on Giving While Living - YouTube](#)



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY

Feeney's views were deeply influenced by the essay "The Gospel of Wealth" by Andrew Carnegie, a 19th century American billionaire industrialist who also gave away his wealth. In an essay, Carnegie writes that "a millionaire is only a caregiver for the poor."



This historic document from 1889 is considered fundamental to US philanthropy and has inspired many Forbes members around the world. Another famous quote by Carnegie from there: "The man who dies rich dies in disgrace."





A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY



On September 14, 2020, Chuck Feeney and his wife Helga Feeney signed documents in San Francisco, marking the closure of the Atlantic Philanthropies after four decades of international donations. When asked if it would be a shame to part with \$ 8 billion, Feeney replied with a smile: “I see no reason to postpone donations when so much good can be achieved by supporting worthwhile causes. Besides, it is much more fun to give while alive than to give when already dead, isn't it?”

My personal reflections

Feeney does not own a car, although he admits that while living in Hong Kong, he briefly owned a used Jaguar. He also does not have a yacht, because, as he says, he is rocked. Feeney wears Casio watches on a rubber strap because they walk like a Rolex. His ex-wife and five children, however, live in mansions that were worth many millions of dollars: they shared \$ 140 million from the sale of Duty Free Shoppers. But Feeney himself lives in apartments owned by The Atlantic Philanthropies in Dublin, Brisbane, and San Francisco.

I have always thought that millionaires are stingy dictators. But while doing this project, I reviewed a lot of information – these are videos and newspaper articles and, of course, internet sites about the life of rich and not extraordinarily rich people. And I made a conclusion for myself: that money is good, but it is not the main thing in life. You need a big and kind heart that can love, sympathize and be faithful and devoted to your views and beliefs! And I am very glad that I got to know such a person as Feeney! Reading about his glorious deeds - I am so imbued with respect for him that I want everyone to know what an amazing person lives in the world. And this man is Irish! Our fellow countryman! Whose ancestors once left Ireland but carried and preserved a sense pride in Ireland and instilled it in a boy named Feeney! And he, in turn, gave care and charity to his distant homeland!

I realized that it is not money that makes a person, but a person makes money. If you have a noble soul, good intentions, your childhood values received from your parents, at school and fixed in your life by your experience, then all your actions will always be for the good of people.



A Person of Commitment - CHUCK FEENEY

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS USING THE FEATURES OF QUALITY

The annotations capture observations by the teacher, using the features of quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the NCCA, the Inspectorate, the State Exams Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service.

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

Feature of Quality 1 The level of detail in the report makes it clear that the student has carried out extensive research on the philanthropist Chuck Feeney. The scope of the research is good and there is clear evidence that the student's research included reading articles on various sites and watching interviews with Chuck Feeney. The research element could have been improved by reducing the focus on the monetary contributions made by Feeney and delving more deeply into the influence of his Christian beliefs in influencing his life choices, actions and way of living.

Feature of Quality 2 The report includes lots of detail about the various ways that Chuck Feeney has made a positive positive difference in the world. There are good insights offered, such as where the student notes the influence of Feeney's own childhood experiences of hardship, and his mother's lived example of charity and how these shaped his values and worldview. The influence of growing up as a Catholic is also mentioned as a source of his values and the student makes a link between the Commandment of loving your neighbour and Feeney's desire to help people. The report would have been enhanced if the student made further explicit references to key Christian beliefs and values, thus providing clearer evidence of the link between Chuck Feeney's choices and actions and his Christian beliefs and values.

Feature of Quality 3 There is good evidence of personal reflection in the report, appropriate to the age and stage of learning. It is commendable that some degree of reflection is threaded through the report as well as given more explicitly in the conclusion.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



Above Expectations