

"Pay-It-Forward"

The gift of service and/or resources graciously just given to you has a bit of history behind it. Paying it forward refers to the idea that a recipient of unexpected goodwill will look to become the next giver of goodwill rather than try to repay the person or group who was the source of help.

History The phrase "Pay-It-Forward" was a moral philosophy popularized by Robert A. Heinlein in his book *Between Planets*, published in 1951. He stated an alternative to a person paying back a debt was to "instead, Pay-It-Forward to some other brother who needed it."

More recently, the novel *Pay-It-Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde described a concept to perform three good deeds for others in repayment of a good deed, and that such good deeds be things that the recipient cannot accomplish on their own. Each recipient of an act of kindness is then asked to do three good deeds for others in repayment for the help they have received. In this way, the act of helping one another can spread exponentially.

By individual choice and bravery proven by action, people, like you, are deciding to make the world a better place. The concept sounds almost too idealistic, that is, until you consider that someone thought enough to act to help you. Taking action to boldly help other individuals, families, or causes is now what you are being asked to do by the person who just assisted you. What you do next is entirely up to you.

More information? There is actually an organization dedicated to paying it forward - the Pay-It-Forward Foundation www.payitforwardfoundation.org. The Foundation focuses on bringing the idea of paying it forward to school age children, parents, and educators. The simple idea of doing good works for others to repay the good that has been provided to you is one that is easily conveyed to children and encourages them to take an active role in making the world a better place. The Pay-It-Forward website also provides some excellent information and examples of personal community service that you may want to blend with your own ideas.

Your Choice The design of Pay-It-Forward is simple. The goal is, as directly as possible, for you to help those who do not expect assistance and simply cannot meet their own needs. The hope is that you will look to help three (or more) individuals, families, or organizations through your actions. The employees of Paradigm Technologies, Inc., a simple company in Arlington Virginia, have taken on the mission to bravely step out and exemplify Pay-It-Forward in the community. We do not know where our assistance to others will lead, but we are choosing, as you might, to change lives. If you decide to continue this path of caring for others, feel free to let us (or the PayIt Forward Foundation) know about it. You can email us at PayItForward@Paradigm.net to relay your Pay-It-Forward story. More importantly, thank you for allowing us the chance to give of ourselves for you.