



## About Community Foundations

Helping donors do good  
work...**forever.**



### What are Community Foundations?

One of the fastest growing sectors of organized philanthropy in the United States today is that of community foundations. They build and strengthen communities by making it possible for a wide range of donors to create permanent charitable endowments to meet critical needs. Through philanthropy that is visionary, flexible, and inclusive, community foundations have become catalysts for improvement in their communities.

### Special Features of Community Foundations

Community foundations serve citizens in all 50 states and in many countries worldwide. Collectively, these foundations hold over \$31 billion in assets and make local grants of approximately \$2.6 billion annually to a wide variety of nonprofit activities including the arts, education, environmental projects, health, urban affairs, and social services.

Community foundations offer many services and benefits to donors. The foundations routinely work with families, individuals, estate planners, and attorneys to design gift plans that fit every economic situation so that donors can receive the greatest benefit from their charitable contributions and ensure that their philanthropic dollars are used to the fullest extent.

Nearly every type of gift – such as real estate, stock, and life insurance – can be contributed to a community foundation. Gifts are made through bequests and by living donors who want to be actively involved in local philanthropy.

**A community foundation is a publicly-supported philanthropic institution governed by a board of private citizens chosen to represent the public interest and for their knowledge of the community. The foundation administers individual funds contributed or bequeathed to it by individuals, other agencies, corporations, and other sources. Community foundations uniquely serve three publics: donors, the nonprofit sector, and the community as a whole.**