


Community Foundation of St. Joseph County

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin and short, curly hair. The child is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with a graphic that includes the word "WORK" and a cartoon car. The child is holding a colorful, translucent star-shaped object in their right hand, pointing it towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a play area with various toys and containers.

# Guide to Giving

We can help you make a difference.

# What is the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County?

Since 1992, we've been connecting people who care with causes that matter.

Simply put, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County is a charitable endowment that improves the quality of life for the citizens of St. Joseph County and succeeding generations.

How? We receive gifts from people who care about the St. Joseph County community, we invest these gifts forever, and we use the investment earnings to make grants each year to local charities. Individuals may also set up funds to benefit specific charities or to serve a field of charitable interest, such as the arts, educational scholarships, or the environment. Many local corporations have set up funds as part of their strategy to support the community.

Learn more about us through this booklet or at our website: **[www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org)**. You can also call Rose Meissner, president of the Community Foundation, at **(574) 232-0041**.





Through our Senior Living Initiative, the Community Foundation has partnered with REAL Services to help hundreds of local seniors stay in their own homes longer.



Part of the Foundation's ArtsEverywhere Initiative, the free Community Foundation Performing Arts Series draws more than 3,000 people annually.



# Why give through the **Community Foundation?**

## **LOCAL EXPERTISE**

You'll benefit from our in-depth knowledge of the community and its needs. We can help you learn about local nonprofits and find the best matches with your charitable interests. When you work with us, your dollars benefit the community you love.

## **FINANCIALLY SMART**

We deliver world-class investment performance through our professionally managed, highly diversified portfolio of investments. You'll receive the most advantageous tax benefits available for charitable giving. And you can convert a variety of assets to your fund.

## **EASY**

The Community Foundation handles all the administrative aspects of philanthropy—investments, tax reporting, due diligence, and ensuring that your giving complies with current law and IRS regulations—so you can focus on your giving.

## **PERMANENT**

That's the nature of philanthropic endowment. We're here for the community's benefit, now and forever.

# Becoming a Donor

## How do I get started?

### **1. THINK ABOUT YOUR GOALS**

A conversation with family members or a professional advisor is a good place to start. If you choose, Community Foundation staff can be part of those confidential conversations and help you explore options for giving.

### **2. DECIDE WHEN TO GIVE**


Based on your needs and interests, we can help you decide whether to establish a fund now, or later—through a bequest or other planned giving strategies.

### **3. DECIDE WHAT TO GIVE**

There are many ways to create a fund with the Community Foundation. Most people establish a fund with cash or appreciated securities, but you can also use real estate or other assets.

### **4. CHOOSE WHAT YOU WANT TO SUPPORT**

Whether you're interested in a specific cause, organization, or area of need, our professional staff can provide information to help you refine your ideas.



The Community Foundation launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in our county in 2018, providing free, new books for thousands of county preschoolers by mail each month.

## 5. TALK WITH US

We'll help you think through options, including a variety of existing funds that enable you to start giving immediately. Or we can help you develop giving strategies that will make gifts to your fund later. You may choose to do both. Talk to us. We're here to help you.



### DONORS LIKE YOU:

Read about other local Community Foundation donors on our website: [www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org). You may

be surprised to see how many friends and neighbors you recognize.

# Decide When to Give

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County offers you an easy, flexible way to accomplish your charitable goals and receive the maximum tax deduction allowed by law.

## **GIVE NOW**

### **Give to an existing fund**

You can contribute to one of the many existing funds at the Community Foundation. Some support specific nonprofit organizations in our community. You'll fund a full list of our organizational endowment funds—those that support specific nonprofit organizations—at **[www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org)**. Chances are, your favorite charity already has a fund with us. Other funds support broader causes that are important to our community, such as the ArtsEverywhere Fund, the Early Years Count Education Initiative, or the African American Community Fund.

### **Create your own fund**


You can also create your own Donor-Advised Fund to support the causes you care about. These funds allow you to have an active role in grantmaking. Donor-Advised Endowed funds will continue to support your vision for future generations. Donor-Advised Pass-Through funds give you increased flexibility regarding amount and timing of grants.



## GIVE LATER

### Create a charitable estate plan

You can make arrangements to give after your lifetime. A key feature of many estate plans is a tax advantage you receive now for the commitment of a charitable gift later through your will or trust. Your retirement plan assets are an ideal charitable tool: They're 100% tax free when donated to the charitable causes you choose.



Since the beginning, the Foundation has been committed to improving education. Our initiative work supports children and their teachers from early childhood through college graduation.

# What to Give Now

Gifts to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County come in all shapes and sizes. Cash, securities, closely-held stock, business interests, and real estate are all assets that have been used to establish charitable funds or contribute to existing funds.

## CASH

Cash gifts are popular and simple. With a gift of \$10,000, you can establish a donor-advised fund; a gift of \$25,000 can establish a scholarship fund. You can fulfill your commitment in one gift, or over a period of up to five years. Any amount of money can be donated to an existing fund.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Give as much or as little as you want
- Combine multiple gifts to establish a fund

## STOCKS AND BONDS

Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds will provide greater tax benefits than a cash gift of equivalent value, especially if they have a low cost basis. You will receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of your property—even if you initially bought it for less. You'll also avoid capital gains tax.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Gain a charitable deduction
- No capital gains tax
- Combine multiple gifts
- Recognizable tax savings
- Reduce your taxable estate

You can also use real estate or personal property to contribute to or establish a fund, and you can convert a private foundation to a fund at the Community Foundation.

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

With a minimum of \$10,000, you can create a charitable gift annuity with the Community Foundation. As with a traditional annuity, you exchange a lump sum of cash or appreciated stock for a fixed guaranteed income for life (and your spouse's life, if you wish). Assets remaining in the annuity when you die will be invested in the Community Foundation to support your favorite charity or cause forever.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Guaranteed, fixed stream of income at a return rate ranging from 4–8%, depending on your age
- Charitable income tax deduction and partially tax-free income
- Reduced capital gains taxes if appreciated stock is used to purchase the annuity



### **TOP PERFORMER:**

One of the largest in Indiana, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County ranks

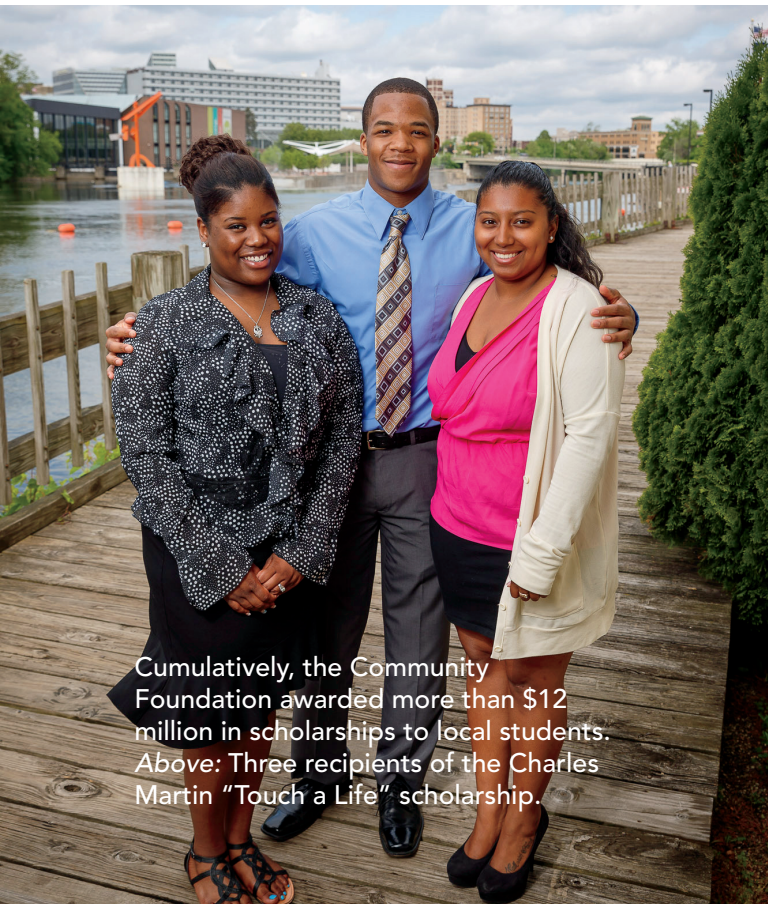
among the **top 100** community foundations nationally.

# What to Give Later

Whether you want to simply remove assets from your estate to save estate taxes, avoid taxes on capital gains, or establish a life income, the Community Foundation can help. Our professional staff can provide information and guidance as you explore giving alternatives and opportunities.

## CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

Through a bequest, you can establish any kind of fund or give to an existing fund. Such gifts allow you to make a significant contribution that may not be possible during your lifetime.



Cumulatively, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$12 million in scholarships to local students. Above: Three recipients of the Charles Martin "Touch a Life" scholarship.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Divide property between loved ones and your charitable interests as you choose
- Reduce your taxable estate
- Create a charitable legacy today that will endure after your death

## **RETIREMENT ASSETS**

Retirement assets are some of the most tax-efficient assets to transfer to charity upon your death. Deferred income tax and estate tax can erode the value of your retirement assets; in some cases, the combination taxes can be as high as 80%, leaving very little for your heirs. By leaving retirement assets to your fund at the Community Foundation, you can preserve 100% of your hard-earned assets for the good of your community—forever.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Avoid all income and estate taxes
- Deploy 100% of your retirement assets toward your charitable gift
- Create a charitable legacy today that will endure after your death

Naming the Community Foundation as a beneficiary in your will is as simple as adding a few lines: *"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or a description of the specific asset you wish to bequeath) for (a specific fund within the Foundation)."*



## LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Giving a life insurance policy is an inexpensive way to make a substantial contribution to the Community Foundation. Three common methods allow you to turn insurance policies into a charitable gift.

**OPTION 1:** List the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County as the beneficiary when purchasing a new life insurance policy, or execute a simple change of beneficiary form on a current policy. When you die, your estate receives a charitable deduction and the death benefit passes to the Community Foundation tax-free.

**OPTION 2:** Donate an existing, paid-up life insurance policy to the Community Foundation. You'll receive a current income tax deduction equal to the lesser of your basis in the policy or the policy value.

**OPTION 3:** Transfer an existing insurance policy or a new policy on your life and name the Community Foundation as the owner. Every year you donate sufficient funds to the Community Foundation to pay the annual premium



### **Benefits to you:**

- Simple way to create a significant legacy
- Charitable deduction on the current value of your paid-up policy
- If you donate a premium-due policy, you receive an additional tax deduction for your annual gift to pay the premium

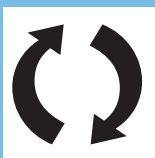
## CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS

A charitable lead trust allows you to make significant charitable gifts now, while later transferring wealth to your heirs at reduced tax rates. Through the trust, you determine how much will be paid to the Community Foundation, and for how long. The principle that remains after the trust terminates will revert back to you, or pass to another designated individual. Charitable lead trusts are effective tools for excluding assets—and subsequent appreciation on those assets—from your taxable estate, while supporting your favorite charitable causes and providing for loved ones at the end of the trust term.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Transfer appreciated property to family members at a low cost
- Reduce burden of gift taxes, probate costs, and estate taxes
- Useful in a year in which you have a large amount of taxable income, as a current income tax deduction



### **A BIG DIFFERENCE:**

Since we began making grants, the Community Foundation has returned more than **\$5 million**

a year to the community, supporting a wide variety of causes and charities that make our county a better place.

## CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

Charitable remainder trusts can support the Community Foundation's future grant-making while providing you, or someone you select, with income for life or a specified number of years. You do this by making an irrevocable gift to a trust, which distributes annual income to the beneficiary. The payments can be a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of the principal. At the end of the term, the remaining principal is distributed to the Community Foundation.



### **Benefits to you:**

- Make a significant gift to charity
- Provide a lifetime income for you or your beneficiaries
- Reduce your taxable estate
- Avoid immediate capital gains tax when the gifted asset is sold
- Realize a charitable tax deduction
- Increase income by converting low-yield assets



### **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Cumulatively, the Community Foundation has awarded more than **\$12 million** in scholarships to help bright, deserving young people realize their dreams.

# Choose What You Want to Support

Support our community's **smart and deserving students** by donating to one of the Community Foundation's many SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

Chances are, **your favorite charity** has a ENDOWED FUND at the Foundation already. Gifts to these funds (a full list is available at **[cfsjc.org/endowments](https://cfsjc.org/endowments)**), you help guarantee the future for the nonprofit organizations you care about the most.

Through an UNRESTRICTED GIFT, you give the Foundation the flexibility to address the **issues that matter most to St. Joseph County**—today, tomorrow, or whenever need occurs.

Stay actively involved in your charitable giving, working with the Foundation to recommend grants annually to support **local nonprofits and timely causes** from the DONOR-ADVISED FUND you create.

The Foundation has created multiple funds in **the arts, education, and other broad areas**. Your gift to one of these INITIATIVE FUNDS stays flexible enough to meet community needs, even as they change over time. Or create a FIELD OF INTEREST FUND that reflects your own priorities.

# Community Foundation Financial Information

## **ASSETS AND INVESTMENT**

The Community Foundation holds assets and investments of over \$250 million. The Community Foundation has a world-class investment portfolio with top-quartile returns among foundations nationwide. Our Investment Committee is comprised of leading experts in investment management who provide oversight and guidance to all our funds.

For more details on the Community Foundation's investment performance, visit **[www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org)**.

## **FEE POLICY**

Another reason to choose the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County for your charitable giving is our Fee Policy. Because of the Leighton Endowment for the Advancement of Philanthropy—created by local businessman and philanthropist Judd Leighton—we're able to waive the administrative fees that foundations normally assess on most funds. That means each dollar contributed to Foundation endowed funds goes to support the causes that you want to support—not the costs of fund administration.





Rose Meissner, president, has been with the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County since 1992.

## **Community Foundation of St. Joseph County Board Chairs Since Inception**

Marion Fulce

Greta Roemer Lewis

Bradley Beutter

Timothy Sexton

Nancy King

George Cressy, Jr.

Myrtle Wilson

Edwina Kintner

James Keenan

Richard B. Urda, Jr.

Patrick L. O'Malley

Donald G. Cressy

Ernestine M. Raclin

Charles Roemer

Thomas R. Cassady, Sr.

George M. Haley, MD



To learn more about the  
**Community Foundation of St. Joseph County**  
and how we can help you with your charitable  
giving, visit **[www.cfsjc.org](http://www.cfsjc.org)**  
or call Rose Meissner, president of the  
Foundation, at **(574) 232-0041**.