

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

A community foundation is a tax-exempt, charitable nonprofit organization established to serve a specific geographic region. Community foundations build funds that support community needs, with a focus on creating endowment funds for the long-term benefit of local charitable projects and programs. Community foundations are trusted and valuable resources for individuals, families, businesses, nonprofit organizations and professional advisors working to build local philanthropy, and are a vehicle for people of all means to make a lasting difference in their community.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS PLAY THREE IMPORTANT ROLES:



#1

WORK WITH DONORS

A community foundation grows assets through contributions from many donors. Donor-advised, agency and scholarship funds allow donors to make contributions to the causes they care about most. These funds are invested by the community foundation and, over time, grow to produce greater philanthropic good.



#2

PROVIDE GRANTS

Community foundation funds annually distribute grants to support nonprofit and charitable causes in the community. These grants support a broad range of community needs such as arts and culture, health, human services, the environment, education and community development.



#3

SERVE AS COMMUNITY LEADERS

In addition, community foundations engage in community leadership work to help address some of their region's most pressing issues. Community leadership work often involves working with other leaders from the business, education and government sectors to align efforts and leverage resources.

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS TO PARTNERING WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS:

- are local organizations with a **COMMITMENT** to their community.
- have staff members who hold **COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE** about local issues and needs.
- offer maximum **TAX ADVANTAGES**, including access to the Endow Iowa Tax Credit.
- provide highly **PERSONALIZED SERVICES** tailored to each individual's goals.
- can **WORK DIRECTLY** with donors or with professional advisors.
- accept a wide variety of **ASSETS**, including complex gifts.
- improve the **QUALITY OF LIFE** and build on the strengths of their communities.
- support their local communities now and will continue to **FOREVER**.

The important work of community foundations is positively impacting each of Iowa's 99 counties. To learn more about your local community foundation, please visit www.IowaCommunityFoundations.org.