

A legacy of giving

Endowment



What is endowment? *When you create a charitable fund through your community foundation, you have the opportunity to benefit the community forever with a permanent endowment. Your gift is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift—and all future earnings from your gift—is a permanent source of community capital, helping do good work today and in the future.*

Legacy and stability. Donors who endow their gifts can make a difference in their community during their lifetime and, at the same time, provide a gift that lasts forever. Grants will continue to be made in the name of the fund you establish so that your charitable wishes are preserved, even if an organization receiving grants ceases to exist in the future.

Leaders of a nonprofit organization may also look to the community foundation to hold their organization's endowment because they know that having a constant source of funding helps them respond to emergency needs as well as plan for the future and sustain the good work they do.

Expert help. When donors or nonprofit organizations work through the community foundation to achieve their charitable goals, they benefit from the expertise of experienced local program staff, community leadership, and investment management.

The power of endowment

A half century ago, Paul Cesarz made a choice that continues to benefit his community today. He created an endowed fund in 1952 with \$150,000 in assets. The fund immediately began earning income and distributing grants to causes important to him. Fifty years later and 35 years after Paul's death, the Cesarz Fund had grown to \$1,066,003. And in that 50th year, it generated more than \$50,000 in grants, supporting a range of community needs—a park renovation, a museum exhibit, cancer research, and more. Because Paul chose to endow his gift, he has enabled more than \$1.1 million in grants to go to his community—almost eight times the impact he would have made by giving the original gift to charity all at once. And though Paul has passed away, the fund in his name will go on supporting his community, leaving a lasting legacy.

Q: How can I use my retirement plan to start an endowment?

A: *Any individual who is 70 1/2 or older may direct money from their traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations, such as the Post Rock Community Foundation. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals to roll over up to \$100,000 from their IRA to charitable organizations by January 1, 2012, and exclude that amount from their reported gross income.*