

# What's a "Community" Foundation?

We're a *community* foundation, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity that enables people to establish charitable funds, to give back to their community to support organizations and causes they care about most. Your fund will be commingled with our other funds and managed professionally. Its assets will grow over time. You and your family are encouraged to continue giving to the fund to help it grow even more.

The Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) has been formed to increase exposure and opportunities for philanthropy throughout northwest Kansas and the tri-state region.

Sheridan County Community Foundation became an affiliate of GNWKCF in 2012. An affiliate is a collection of community funds to increase philanthropic giving in a geographic area. Both endowed and non-endowed funds are developed to provide financial support to 501(c)(3) and other qualifying non-profit organizations and for charitable purposes to benefit area residents.

The mission of Sheridan County Community Foundation is to encourage, prudently manage, and distribute charitable contributions to improve the quality of life in Sheridan County residents, now and in the future.

**For Good. For Ever.**



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## Graham County Community Foundation



an affiliate of



[www.gnwkcf.org](http://www.gnwkcf.org)



# *How do I Create a Fund?*

## **1.) Decide WHEN to Give**

You can create your fund now, establish it in your will, or create it through a trust arrangement that benefits your family as well as charity. You may give in honor of an anniversary, to celebrate a special event or to support a cause. Tax deductions are earned at the time of your gift, while grants awarded from your fund will continue into the future.

## **2.) Decide WHAT to Give**

Almost any kind of asset can be used to start your fund, such as cash, publicly traded securities, closely held stock, interests in limited partnerships, real estate, life insurance, tangible personal property and private foundation assets. We can also discuss other options with you, such as bequests, charitable remainder unitrusts, charitable remainder annuity trusts, charitable lead trusts, pooled income funds, charitable gift annuities, life income and deferred charitable gift annuities.

## **3.) Choose the NAME for your Fund**

Most of our funds are named for the donor or the donor's family or as a memorial to someone special. Every grant from the fund will carry this name. If you prefer anonymity, you may choose a name that reflects your fund's charitable purposes.

## **4.) Choose a TYPE of Fund**

We offer a variety of funds that are flexible to meet our donors' different charitable interests:

Unrestricted Funds, Field-of-Interest Funds, Donor-Advised Funds, Scholarship Funds, Designated Funds & Organizational Endowment Funds.

*Unrestricted Funds* offer the broadest giving option, allowing grants to be made to wherever our professional staff determines our community's needs are the greatest.

*Field-of-Interest Funds* create grants that meet needs in a particular field or geographic area that is of interest to you.

*Donor-Advised Funds* enable you to recommend specific organizations to receive grants.

*Scholarship Funds* help students pursue academic goals. You may define guidelines for candidacy, the advisory committee, the school and the award itself.

*Designated Funds* let you support specific organizations while we make sure that grants to these groups remain relevant over time and responsive to changing circumstances.

*Organizational Endowment Funds* are established by nonprofit organizations to provide income to them. We handle all administrative and investment responsibilities, freeing the organization to pursue its charitable mission.

## *Seven Easy Steps to Philanthropy*

- 1.) Discuss your overall philanthropic goals with your family members and legal or tax advisors.
- 2.) Decide how much you can afford to give.
- 3.) Determine the causes/organizations that will use your donations to meet the goals you support.
- 4.) Meet with us to discuss your plan. Ask questions, explore the different gift vehicles available to you and review the documents needed to implement your plan.
- 5.) Share the documents with your family and your professional advisors.
- 6.) Transfer your gift to us.
- 7.) Review our confirmation on your completed gift and the ongoing progress of grants that are awarded from your fund.

# *How do I get Started?*

Contact our foundation staff. You may know precisely which organization you want to support or you may not. In either case, we can help you shape a grantmaking program that fits your needs and carries out your charitable intent forever. Let us show you how easy, flexible and effective your charitable giving can be. And how you can make a difference by giving something back to the community that helped you get where you are today.

The result is a lasting legacy that addresses the needs of today and the challenges of tomorrow, establishes a tradition of philanthropy and ensures that your fund will develop community capital to improve the quality of life now and well into the future.

Please contact:

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