Charitable Funds

Many giving options.

Choose the one that’s right for your client.

**Donor-Advised Funds.** Your client can have ongoing involvement in the use of their gift by working with our professional staff to identify ways to use dollars from the donor-advised fund they establish to address the issues and needs they care about most. We submit their recommendations to the Community Foundation’s board for final approval and then distribute the grant dollars.

**Community Funds.** Your client’s gift can address ever-changing community needs, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time of their gift. The Community Foundation evaluates all aspects of community well-being, such as arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization and more. The flexibility of their unrestricted gift enables the Community Foundation’s experts to respond to the community’s most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.

**Field of Interest Funds.** Your client can target their gift to address needs in an important area of community life. Arts. Addiction. Aging. At-risk youth. They identify their personal interest area when making their gift; our board awards grants to community organizations and programs making a difference in the area selected.

**Scholarships.** Your client can invest their gift in our community’s future and show students they care, all with the guidance and personal service of the Community Foundation. Your client determines the criteria students must meet to receive the established scholarship. With their assistance, students achieve their academic and career-oriented goals from preschool to postgraduate work.

**Designated Funds.** Your client can direct their gift to a specific nonprofit organization or purpose. Help provide ongoing funding for a senior center, museum or virtually any nonprofit charitable organization. Nonprofit organizations can use a designated fund through us to build their endowment and enhance their ability to accept large and complex gifts.

**Special Features of a Community Foundation:**

1. **Personalized service.** The Community Foundation makes giving easy, flexible and effective, accepting a wide variety of gifts and providing donors the greatest flexibility. Your clients can contribute cash, stocks, property or bequests. They may establish one of the following types of funds: unrestricted, field of interest, designated or donor-advised. They can create the fund in their name or in the name of a loved one, or whatever they choose. Their gift will also receive the maximum tax advantages under state and federal law.

2. **Local expertise.** Our professional staff has an in-depth understanding of the issues, opportunities and resources that shape our community. We monitor all areas of community need—including human services, education, environment, healthcare, the arts and economic development. We can help your client learn more about local agencies and programs that make a difference in areas they care about most.

3. **Community Leadership.** We invest in the long-term, bringing people and organizations together, convening diverse voices to address local issues and opportunities. We believe in building communities.

**Establish a fund in your name**

Your clients can establish any of these funds in their name, or in the name of their family, their organization or anyone they wish to honor. All grants distributed from the established fund — today and in the future — will get awarded to charities in the name of that fund. It’s a great way for them to stay involved and create a legacy of giving.
It's a delicate dilemma. Estate planners, financial planners and other professional advisors are often faced with a delicate dilemma: You want to discuss the many benefits of charitable giving with your clients, but want to avoid recommending specific charitable causes or organizations.

Fortunately, there’s a simple solution. It's The Community Foundation of Washington County MD. The Community Foundation is a single, trusted vehicle your clients can use to address the issues they care about most, while gaining maximum tax benefit under state and federal law. We offer a variety of giving options, including the ability to set up a charitable fund in your client’s name.

The Community Foundation also provides the opportunity to support multiple charities at the same time and provide local knowledge of the nonprofit community. If requested, the Community Foundation can provide a layer of anonymity between the donor and the charities they support. We have many ways to help you help your clients achieve their charitable goals.

About the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc. is a tax-exempt public charity created by and for the people of Washington County. The Community Foundation exists to promote local philanthropy and since 1997, has distributed over $22 million in grants and scholarships. With over $40 million in assets and 340 funds, donors may contribute to a range of charitable endeavors or set up their own endowed fund to ensure support for generations to come.