



Giving for Individuals & Families

The Community Foundation simplifies giving, providing a flexible platform for donors to realize their maximum charitable impact and join a community of other philanthropists meeting our region's most pressing needs.

Our platform allows you to create a fund tailored to your specific charitable goals. Give now, or leave a legacy for the future—or both. As a donor, you may want to maintain long-term involvement with your charitable fund. You may want to establish a fund in your name that supports your philanthropic goals in perpetuity. You may want to find a way to involve your children in giving. We are here to help as knowledgeable advisors and dedicated stewards of your generous donation. You can direct your gift to an area of interest that's important to you, a specific organization whose work you admire, or the Community Foundation's own work in achieving our vision—a just, prosperous and unified region where every person is empowered to reach their full potential.

Give Today

For 60 years, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has served generous people like you as a partner in philanthropy. We administer more than 500 grantmaking funds, established by donors like you, which demonstrate the flexibility and ease of giving and the impact you can make as we work together to drive positive change in this place we call home.

By contributing to an existing fund at the Community Foundation, you can tap into the power of collective giving and pool your charitable resources to achieve measurable results for our community. Or, create your own fund and work with our staff to create a strategy for your charitable giving.

The power of our collaborative model comes from bringing together givers, change agents, civic leaders, and diverse voices to work together for Greater Birmingham. Through our platform, donors amplify their charitable impact, vjoining a community of philanthropists meeting our region's most pressing needs. Our Foundation and the donors who comprise it are an enduring force for good, advancing a more vibrant region where all people and communities thrive, today and for generations to come.

Community Impact
Fund Types
Ways to Give

Give Forever

Through the Community Foundation, you can impact the community, causes and organizations you care about during your lifetime and beyond. The Community Foundation helps many of our donors establish charitable legacies through their estate plans. In fact, the majority of our Community Fund that supports our competitive grantmaking was funded by generous donors who wanted to impact the Greater Birmingham community in perpetuity.

Your legacy gift may take many shapes.

For example, you can leave your gift to the Community Foundation to be used to support its competitive grantmaking, to your existing donor advised or field-of-interest fund that supports causes or charities you care about, or to a new, customized fund that is specifically tailored to your charitable vision. Our staff will work with you and your estate planning advisors to understand your interests and goals and ensure that your charitable dollars are used according to your original intent.

Ways to Give Beyond Your Lifetime

Legacy giving is a powerful tool that will have a positive impact on our community for generations to come. Here are a few ways to get started with your legacy:

Gift through a will

Name the Community Foundation to receive a gift in your will or trust. The gift may be a bequest for a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your residual estate. Our staff can work with you or your advisor to document your specific intention to make sure your charitable vision is realized.

Retirement plan assets

Designate the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of part or all of a retirement account. A gift of retirement assets is a very tax efficient way to leave a charitable legacy, because a charitable beneficiary will not be required to pay income tax on the proceeds of the account. Thus, designating a charitable entity as a primary or contingent beneficiary is a great way to maximize the value held in a retirement plan. This can be accomplished by updating your beneficiary form that your retirement plan administrator can provide to you.

Life insurance policy

Designate the Community Foundation as the beneficiary of part or all of a life insurance policy. You may use a current or deferred gift of life insurance much as you would direct retirement plan assets to a charitable beneficiary. For a current gift of life insurance, you may transfer ownership of a policy to the Community Foundation. If you elect to transfer ownership of a policy, you must obtain a valuation to determine the present value of the policy.

Split-income arrangements

Gift vehicles such as charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities allow for a donor to secure an income stream for life, while also providing for one or more charitable beneficiaries. Similarly, a charitable lead trust secures an income stream for a charity for a term of years, while allowing the donor or the donor's family to benefit at the end. Our staff would be happy to discuss these options with you and your advisors.

Securities or brokerage accounts

Designate the Community Foundation as the transfer on death beneficiary of your account. For securities or brokerage accounts that you may choose to pass to charitable beneficiaries, a "transfer upon death" order can be executed now. At the account owner's death (or at the time of the second to die for joint accounts), assets in the account would immediately pass to the designated beneficiaries outside of the probate process. Speak to your broker or account administrator to obtain a copy of this form.

[Charitable Bequest or Beneficiary Designation \(Pdf\)](#)
[Make a Gift through your Will \(Pdf\)](#)

Community Builders

When you inform us about your estate gift, you are eligible to join our Community Builders. Members are invited to events on issues in our community, have access to Foundation staff members as a resource for charitable giving and are acknowledged as special partners in philanthropy. You can also choose to remain anonymous – the amount of recognition you receive is completely up to you.

If you'd like to begin planning your legacy – or if you'd just like to talk about what's possible – we'd love to meet with you. Please contact Megan Wilson for more information:

Megan Wilson | mwilson@cfbham.org | 205.327.3828

Give Together

Giving Together is a unique partnership that leverages donor investments and permanent Community Foundation funds to have a greater impact on community needs.

Giving Together demonstrates the power of collective philanthropy and shows that together, we can do so much more. Grants from donors to the Giving Together program expand the funds available from the Foundation's endowment, which has been built by generations of donors throughout our region over the past 60 years. Their legacy of generosity to our community is carried on by Giving Together donors, creating a new legacy of philanthropy for our five-county region.

1. Partner with the Community Fund during our competitive grants cycle to maximize your giving.
2. Participate in site visits, view special reports and participate in one-on-one meetings to enhance your knowledge of our community.
3. Gain special access and information about new initiatives, projects and opportunities that meet the most pressing needs of Greater Birmingham.
4. Learn about the nonprofit organizations that serve our community.
5. Involve other members of your family or your business, as much or as little as you prefer.
6. Benefit from the expertise of Community Foundation staff, who have years of experience in working with donors like you and the nonprofit organizations you cherish.

Community Impact **Recent Grants**

Please contact Sarah Edwards for more information about Giving Together:
Sarah Edwards | sedwards@cfbham.org | 205.327.3827

Open a Fund

The Community Foundation offers a variety of ways for donors to make an impact with their giving. We start by listening to a donor's interests so we can work with that individual, family, or business, and the advisors they rely on to create a component fund that meets their charitable impact objectives and our community's needs.

Fund Types

By opening a fund with the Foundation you can simplify your giving and make an even greater impact.

Donor Advised Funds

These funds allow individuals, families and businesses to be part of the work of the Community Foundation, while also recommending support for their favorite charities and organizations. Donor Advised Funds offer many of the benefits of a private foundation but with greater tax advantages and fewer administrative burdens.

Community Catalyst Funds

Philanthropic venture funds that allow the Community Foundation and its donors to make transformational investments that benefit the Greater Birmingham community.

Field of Interest Funds

Many donors have a specific area of philanthropic interest they want to support; a Field of Interest Fund allows them to do this without having to specify any particular organization.

Community Funds

These funds are ideal for people who want to give back to the community they love. Creating a Community Fund allows a donor to leave a legacy in Greater Birmingham of responding to our community's most pressing needs and best opportunities to make a difference, forever.

Designated Funds

Donors can choose to create a long-term charitable resource to benefit one or more nonprofits.

Agency Endowments

These funds allow individual nonprofit organizations to start and build an endowment, using the professional services of the Community Foundation.

We also offer several **Planned Giving** options that may be ideal for their timeline, beneficiaries, assets and charitable goals.

Ways to Give

We make giving easy. Your assets can be a force for good, impacting the community now and in the future. Because we can accept a variety of assets, we can help you do more good than you thought possible with your charitable giving. For example, by making a gift of appreciated assets that you have owned for more than one year, you may claim a charitable income tax deduction, avoid capital gains tax, and establish a charitable fund at the Community Foundation. Our staff is always happy to help you and your advisors select the best asset to make your charitable gift.

Cash

A cash gift may be the simplest way to establish a fund or give to an existing fund.

Appreciated Assets (or Publically Traded Securities)

Gifts of appreciated securities (stock, bonds and most mutual funds) can be made to the Community Foundation, and may provide additional tax advantages to the donor beyond those available when making a gift of cash.

Real Estate

Perhaps you own appreciated real property that would be a great option for a charitable gift. We may accept a gift of a house or other personal residence, farm, commercial building and income producing or non-income producing land.

Closely Held Business Interest

An interest in a privately-owned business may be gifted to the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation may elect to sell or retain the gifted interest. Special rules apply to shares of sub-chapter S corporation stock.

Life Insurance

When the original purpose for a life insurance policy no longer applies—such as educating children now grown or providing financial security for a spouse now deceased—your policy can become a powerful and simple way to support the Community Foundation. You may name the Community Foundation as the beneficiary only, or as the owner and beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy.

Retirement Plan Assets

Do you have money saved in an employee retirement plan (such as a non-Roth 401(k)) or IRA? These tax-deferred plans contain income that has yet to be taxed. When a distribution is made from your retirement plan account, your beneficiaries will owe federal income tax. If you plan to include the Community Foundation in your estate plan, consider leaving your loved ones less heavily taxed assets and leaving your retirement plan assets to the Community Foundation. As a nonprofit organization, we are tax-exempt and will receive the full amount of what you designate to us from your retirement plan.

[Charitable Bequest or Beneficiary Designation \(Pdf\)](#)
[Make a Gift through your Will \(Pdf\)](#)

Fund Toolkit

[Benefits of Donor Advised Fund vs. Private Foundation \(Pdf\)](#)
[Making a Gift Through a Will \(Pdf\)](#)

[For Fund holders - Grant Recommendation Form \(Pdf\)](#)

[About the Foundation - Community Foundation Fast Facts \(pdf\)](#)

To learn more or ask about using a particular asset, contact:

Lora Terry | lterry@cfbham.org | 205.327.3808
Megan Wilson | mwilson@cfbham.org | 205.327.3828