Our Community Foundation for a Greater Birmingham

Woven Together

2020-2030 Strategic Plan

cfbham.org
Community foundations have been at the forefront of change for over a century, addressing our communities’ most challenging issues and providing hope for current and future generations. Our Community Foundation for a Greater Birmingham is a permanent resource committed to listening to the community, leading with vision and championing our region’s future.

The Community Foundation’s role reaches beyond grantmaking and resource building. Our model ignites passion, encourages hope and stimulates investment in our region. Together with our donors and partners, we are working towards realizing our vision for a just, prosperous and unified region where every person is empowered to reach their full potential.
Our Vision
A just, prosperous and unified region where every person is empowered to reach their full potential

Our Mission
To ignite passion for transformational change

Our Core Values
Include
Innovate
Inspire
Lead
Our History

Our Community Foundation was founded in 1959 by a group of generous, dedicated leaders as a public endowment to support enduring change and success for the community. Although the issues facing our community have changed over the past six decades, our commitment to supporting our region remains steadfast. We continue to galvanize the passion of philanthropists, nonprofits and leaders to empower communities, create opportunity, grow capacity and build charitable resources for a brighter future for a Greater Birmingham.
Igniting Passion for Transformational Change

We know that people lead change. Leading means taking risks, and achieving transformational change requires long-term commitment. Our commitment for the next ten years is to bring together community members and leaders, nonprofit organizations and philanthropic partners to create a lasting impact for the good of all people.

Our collaborative model ignites passion for transformational change because it gives our community the power to pool its talent and resources to achieve more together than any one person or organization could achieve alone.
Better Woven Together

Individually, we drive our community forward. Collectively, we have the power to change it forever. Reaching our full potential starts with ensuring every individual has the opportunity to succeed. We partner with nonprofits, stakeholders and donors to cultivate thriving and collaborative communities, celebrate diverse perspectives and create clear paths to economic security and well-being for all.

At our Community Foundation, we work hand-in-hand with the communities that make the Greater Birmingham area home.

Our Foundation’s Priorities

These five priority areas will guide our leadership, grantmaking and community support for the next decade.

Nurturing Thriving Communities

We constantly see communities accomplish incredible things. When they partner to build on and strengthen community assets, even greater things can happen. Together, we can create communities that are even more vibrant, connected, healthy, beautiful, safe and engaged.
“As a donor at the Community Foundation, I feel like I am part of bigger things. I can’t take on these issues alone, but our fund combined with other funds means we can put our energy into change for good.”

- Dr. Jarralynne Agee

Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund Holder
Driving Regional Cooperation

We recognize that as a region, our individual communities are interconnected and that we all share a common fate. As economies have become regional in nature, the old ways of fragmentation work against future growth and opportunity. We look to build bridges between communities to form lasting connections that can lead to change. Whether we are bringing communities together to advance regional plans, promote equitable policies or improve inefficient systems—our community as a whole benefits when we work side by side.

Fostering Equity and Inclusion

The people in our community represent a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, reflecting the richness of our region. We know that equity and inclusion of all individuals is critical to our shared future. Our Community Foundation will work together with community partners to include and value diverse voices, acknowledge the past and work towards healing, building trust and common ground, and create more equitable systems.
“When we talk about equity, what we mean is that every group or every individual has exactly what they need in order to be successful. I often use Dr. King’s quote in my work that ‘whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly’ and I believe that in addressing equity and inclusion the Community Foundation recognizes and understands that well.”

– Dr. Monica Baskin

Dr. Monica Baskin, Community Partner, Chair of the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership and Vice-Chair for Culture and Diversity, UAB
Creating Economic Opportunity for All

We are all equal in value, yet access to opportunity is not distributed equally. Our Community Foundation is dedicated to creating wide, smooth pathways to economic opportunity for all. This means the student who is preparing for the next level of learning, the worker who wants to advance her career, the entrepreneur who has ambitions to grow a business, and especially those who have been left out or left behind all have a strong chance at economic success.

Overcoming Persistent Poverty

Persistent poverty is not just a problem for some people or families—it affects everyone and is within our power to change. As we identify the enduring barriers that stand between people and economic well-being, we are able to work together to break them down. By building systems that are more equitable and that honor human dignity and potential, we can move toward a world where everyone can realize economic security, mobility and well-being—a truly Greater Birmingham.
“Persistent poverty is a community-wide issue, one that we have a shared responsibility to address. Overcoming this issue will take a multitude of resources and financial investment. As a community, we need to build our capacity to ensure we have the skills and the brainpower needed to address the root causes and make an earnest, genuine effort at solving these persistent challenges.”

- Kathryn Strickland

Executive Director, Community Food Bank of Central Alabama
“Change happens when bold leadership meets opportunity. And for a Greater Birmingham, our Foundation is a catalyst to foster that transformational change. We are a proactive, innovative, philanthropic hub that courageously takes on underlying issues facing our communities.”

– Dave Gray

Chair, Board of Directors, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and Donor Advised Fundholder

BUILDING PHILANTHROPY

Brighter Woven Together

The power of our collaborative model comes from bringing together givers, change agents, civic leaders and diverse voices to work together for a Greater Birmingham. Through our platform, donors amplify their charitable impact, joining 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.
Our Community Foundation for a Greater Birmingham is uniquely positioned to convene and lead the community in addressing critical issues affecting our region. We are committed to identifying solutions to address the systemic problems within our Foundation’s five priority areas. By building on the strengths and diversity of the Foundation, our community partners and stakeholders, we aim to increase our collective community capacity to lead and drive positive transformational change.
About Our Community Foundation

504
Number of Grantmaking Funds

$212 million*
Total Assets

$4 million
Total Awarded

$18.6 million
Grants awarded

Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker
Counties Served

1959
Year founded

2018 GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS

These investments are powered by the generosity of individuals and families that have entrusted the Foundation to meet our community’s needs forever.

DONOR DIRECTED GRANTS

$14.6 million
Donor Directed Grants

2,084
Number of Grants

Our donors impact the community issues they care about by generously giving through their donor advised funds at our Community Foundation.

GIVING TOGETHER

As participants of Giving Together donors generously gave $883,146 towards the Foundation’s semi-annual competitive grant cycles; thus, leveraging the financial resources, knowledge and expertise of the Foundation to collectively support 67 organizations.

*Unaudited as of 12/31/19
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Our Community Foundation for a Greater Birmingham

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