



Our
Community
Foundation

For a Greater Birmingham

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

Lead | Inspire | Innovate | Include

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.

TYPES OF FUNDS

COMMUNITY CATALYST FUNDS: Philanthropic venture funds that allow the Community Foundation and its donors to make transformational investments that benefit the greater Birmingham community.

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

DONOR ADVISED: These funds allow individuals, families and businesses to be part of the work of the Community Foundation, while also supporting their favorite charities and organizations. Donor Advised Funds are like having a private foundation, but with greater tax advantages and fewer administrative burdens.

FIELD OF INTEREST: 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.

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

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Total Assets
\$264.4 Million

Grants made in 2020
\$24 Million

New gifts in 2020
\$25.9 Million

**Number of
Grantmaking funds**
523

Minimum fund size
\$15,000
\$50,000 Catalyst fund
\$200,000 Scholarship fund

Average fund size
\$471,310

Largest fund
\$18.8 Million

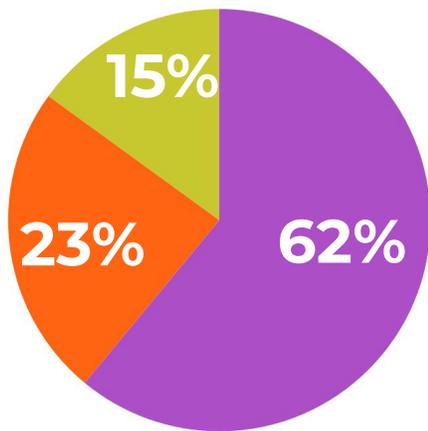
**Community grants
Since 1959**
\$504 Million

Year founded
1959

Counties served
Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby
and Walker counties

As of 12/31/20

GRANTMAKING FUNDS BY ASSET TYPE



DONOR ADVISED

**FLEXIBLE
(COMMUNITY, FIELD
OF INTEREST,
CATALYST)**

**OTHER
(AGENCY, DESIGNATED,
SCHOLARSHIP)**

GRANTS AND INITIATIVES

GRANTS: The grants we make to nonprofits in the Birmingham region come from our community endowment. In 2020, the Foundation launched our new grantmaking framework focusing on five priorities: Nurturing Thriving Communities, Driving Regional Cooperation, Fostering Equity and Inclusion, Creating Economic Opportunity for All and Overcoming Persistent Poverty.

In early 2020, the severity of the COVID pandemic led us to suspend our competitive grantmaking and shift to COVID crisis response. We surveyed the nonprofit community to identify the most crucial needs and opened a streamlined grants process that allowed organizations to quickly access funding as they stretched to do more with their limited resources.

In 2020, we completed three phases of COVID grantmaking, awarding grants from our Community and Emergency Response Funds totaling \$2,314,500. In addition, the Foundation awarded more than \$1 million in grants to support the Birmingham Strong Fund, which partnered with the City of Birmingham to provide nearly \$2 million in emergency loans to 90 small businesses in need. Finally, donors directed \$1,009,917 in additional grants from their donor advised funds to support COVID response efforts.

As of December 31, 2020, the Community Foundation has awarded 222 grants totaling more than \$5.6 million for COVID relief across our region.

PROACTIVE INITIATIVES: To maximize our positive impact on the region, the Community Foundation develops and implements largescale, multi-year regional initiatives. Working with donors, nonprofit organizations, and local leaders, we identify key concerns and develop initiatives to address those concerns and accelerate opportunities within the area. Current initiatives include: Inclusive Economic Opportunity, Regional Cooperation, Mental Health, Micro transit and Summer Learning Loss.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President and CEO:

Christopher Nanni

A HIGHER STANDARD



The National Standards Seal indicates official confirmation from the Council on Foundations that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability. It says our grant-making includes an open, competitive process designed to address the changing needs of our community.



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