

Community Foundations

Our community foundation program is a proven model that helps retain charitable dollars to benefit our communities. **Community foundations support the community as a whole and its changing needs and opportunities.**

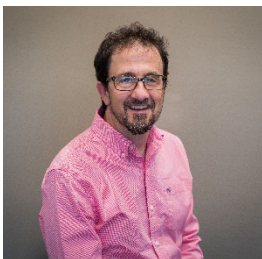
The program is a tool for communities to establish a local “foundation” – without the burden of IRS filings, federal and state regulatory compliance, and investment management. We provide the community foundation partner, called an affiliate, administrative support through gift processing and receipting, grant processing, investment management, and the 501(c)(3) public charity infrastructure necessary for donor gifts to receive the highest possible charitable tax deduction. The affiliate also has access to technical and professional support from us in areas such as strategic planning, board development, fundraising, marketing and grantmaking.

In return, the community assembles a local advisory board to lead the community foundation, raise funds to support the vision, coordinate grant processes and educate the community.

Our 31 affiliates have become catalysts for philanthropy and community improvement while putting local leaders in the driver’s seat.

Getting started

Contact Jeff Vetsch to learn more about our community foundation program.



Jeffrey Vetsch
Community Giving Officer
(320) 583-6342
jeffreyv@swifoundation.org



Give where you live

How Does it Work?

The community foundation program creates a long-term partnership between Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) and your community. At the outset of the partnership, SWIF executes a legal agreement that, simply put, extends SWIF's 501(c)(3) public charity status to your community. Affiliates build a permanent endowment fund to help address the community's changing needs and capitalize on its future opportunities. They also have access to a fundraising vehicle to meet specific and immediate capital needs.

SWIF provides administrative infrastructure by processing gifts and grants, investing assets, providing financial statements and coordinating all IRS reporting requirements. SWIF also provides ongoing assistance in areas such as strategic planning, fundraising, marketing and grantmaking, in addition to a \$25,000 endowment challenge grant to jumpstart fundraising.

The community assembles a local volunteer advisory board to lead the community foundation, raise funds to support the vision, coordinate grant processes and educate the community.

Fees

Administrative fees are assessed to each fund partner and help cover SWIF's costs for the administrative and professional support provided. Administrative fees are subject to change based on fieldwide standards and the economic environment.

Our current administrative fee is an annual amount and assessed monthly, based on the average daily balance. The administrative fee for endowed and non-endowed funds varies based on fund type and fund balance. A complete, detailed administrative fee schedule is available upon request.

In addition, SWIF's investment managers charge separate fees to cover custody, investment management and trading activity. Investment returns over time have averaged just over 8 percent net of these fees. SWIF has an Investment Committee that guides investments in compliance with the Investment Policy Statement approved by the SWIF Board of Directors. The names of SWIF investment managers, fees charged and the names of Investment Committee members are available upon request.

Next Steps

After an initial inquiry, staff meets with community leaders over several months to assess readiness. At that same time, the community determines its fit with SWIF's model and interest in moving forward. If both parties agree to pursue a formal partnership, we will facilitate an organizing and training process during the first year of partnership, after the community raises \$5,000 for its permanent endowment fund.

Jesse Larson and Tiffany Neugebauer (middle) of the Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association accept a grant from Worthington Area Foundation advisory board members Andy Johnson (left) and Dana Oberloh (right). The local foundation helps make the community an even better place to live and work by awarding grants to worthy organizations and projects through its general endowment and related funds.

Photo credit: Worthington Area Foundation Facebook Page

