

ABOUT US

In 1974, five community-minded people came together to form the Shiawassee Community Foundation. They started with \$5 and the goal of improving life for people in Shiawassee County.

A 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit, the Foundation has since grown to manage over 100 funds totaling almost \$10 million.

The Foundation is run by three staff members overseen by a Board of Directors.

OUR MISSION

Because of charitable funds started by people just like you, more high school graduates have gone on to college, local youth have attended summer camps, people with ALS have received wheelchair ramps, and low-income families have received Thanksgiving meals.

That's our mission in action: enriching lives in Shiawassee County through sustainable funds from a wide range of donors.

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STARTING A CHARITABLE FUND

AT THE SHIAWASSEE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



FAQ

What's the Minimum to Start a Fund?

A new fund can be opened with \$5,000. Money will be available to disburse when the fund balance reaches \$10,000.

How Much Does It Cost?

The Foundation currently charges an administrative fee of 2% for scholarship funds and mixed purpose funds, and 1.5% for grant funds and agency funds. This fee comes out of the fund's earnings. You do not have to pay the fee yourself.

What Do I Have to Do?

To start a fund, you simply come in and talk with us. We'll write up a fund agreement detailing how your fund will operate. Then you can leave all the administration to us.

How Is the Money Used?

Scholarships and grants are awarded through an application process administered by the Foundation. You decide the criteria when you set up the fund, and we make sure those criteria are carried out forever.

How Will My Fund Grow?

The money you put into the fund will grow over time as it earns interest. The original amount of money you put into the fund (the endowed balance) will never be spent, so the fund will keep earning interest year after year. You have the option of helping the fund grow even faster by adding contributions to the endowed portion.

FUND TYPES

GRANTS

Grant programs are a versatile way to give back to your community. Whether you want to support a specific non-profit or provide funding for a more general cause, we can suggest or create a grant fund that's right for you.

Field of Interest Fund

If you have a passion for animals, trains, or youth programs (to name just a few), you may want to open a field of interest fund. Every year, local organizations providing programs in your area of interest will apply for grants from the fund. The Foundation will do the work of administering this grant process; all you have to do is initially decide what kind of activities you want to support.

Designated Agency Fund

Is there a particular organization that holds a special place in your heart? You can support your favorite non-profit by creating a fund just for them. Every year, the interest earned on that fund will be given to the designated agency to support their programs.

Community Needs Unrestricted Fund

Part of improving the quality of life for people in Shiawassee County is being prepared to respond to emerging needs as they arise. The Community Needs Unrestricted Fund is a resource for attending to local needs, from natural disasters to planned events.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Starting a scholarship fund in honor of a loved one is a meaningful way to commemorate their life and create a lasting legacy in their name to assist students going to college or trade school.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Take a Collection

When friends and family hear that you're starting a charitable fund, they may want to contribute. Many times, friends will make a gift to the fund in honor of a family member's birthday or another special event. People love to support charitable causes, if you just ask them.

Fundraising Event

Many of our fund representatives host fundraising events to provide income for the funds they opened. This can be as simple as a spaghetti dinner or as elaborate as a classic car show. Whatever fits your style will work.

Estate Planning

Including the Foundation in your estate is a nice way to make a lasting gift to your community that may not be possible during your lifetime.

You can leave a bequest of cash, property, stocks, or bonds; or you can name the Foundation as a beneficiary on your 401(k), IRA, or life insurance policy.