Community Impact Endowment Funds

From community initiatives helping area youth become successful adults through education, to programs getting homeless men and women back on their feet, The Dayton Foundation’s discretionary grants to local nonprofits are “moving the needle” on critical issues throughout Greater Dayton. By creating a Community Impact Endowment Fund, or designating a portion of your fund for this purpose, you will be helping the Foundation to support initiatives and projects that are innovative, collaborative and dynamic – and have a larger community strategy designed to leverage dollars for the most impact.

What Is a Community Impact Endowment Fund?

A Community Impact Endowment Fund is an endowed fund that carries little or no restriction on how the income may be used in awarding grants to nonprofit organizations. These unrestricted dollars form the basis of the Foundation’s strategic grantmaking program to strengthen local nonprofits, support community leadership initiatives and respond to community disasters, all of which have had far-reaching effects in all corners of Greater Dayton. The beauty and strength of these funds is the flexibility that they provide in addressing a broad range of local needs, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated.

How It Works

You may, for example, establish your unrestricted fund as The John and Mary Smith Community Impact Endowment Fund of The Dayton Foundation. You also may choose to designate just a portion of your endowed fund as unrestricted – or unrestricted in a particular field of interest, such as healthcare, arts and culture, youth or education. You may establish your fund today – or as a legacy fund to be activated upon your passing. Either way, your gift will benefit Greater Dayton in perpetuity and will ensure that those for whom the fund was named always will be remembered.

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Community Impact Endowment Funds support efforts such as Lean to Earn Dayton (L2ED), which is working to ensure that all of Greater Dayton’s children are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten and ready to earn when they graduate from higher education. Launched in 2012, L2ED now is a supporting organization of The Dayton Foundation that has received national recognition. In 2019, it received a $500,000 grant from StriveTogether to place “Equity Fellows” in area school districts, such as Dayton Public Schools, to identify practices and policies that impede underrepresented students’ school success. This important work will aid in closing the achievement gap and boosting the educational success of our region’s youth.

“Efforts such as Preschool Promise are having a marked impact in the region.” said Tom Lasley, CEO of Learn to Earn Dayton. “In just seven years, the number of adults with a two- or four-year degree has increased over 6 percentage points – from 34 percent in 2010 to 40.6 percent in 2017. That’s double the growth rate in Ohio and the nation.”

The Need
Currently, just 5 percent of all Dayton Foundation endowed funds is unrestricted. A small percentage of these funds is available each year for The Dayton Foundation’s strategic grantmaking program to strengthen local nonprofit organizations and for the Foundation’s community leadership initiatives. Yet, there is a growing demand for us to use our unique, neutral convening position to bring diverse groups together to solve important community issues and to expand our grantmaking and leadership initiatives. The Foundation can deepen our community outreach with the addition of unrestricted funds to support this work. Your participation can help us to further our special role in working to solve complex problems, and create significant and lasting change for our region. By establishing an unrestricted or field-of-interest endowed fund through the Foundation, you will be part of a circle of donors who share a passion for this region and a strong desire to effect positive change in Greater Dayton.

To Learn More About Establishing a Community Impact Endowment Fund
Call (937) 222-0410 or toll free at (877) 222-0410 and ask for a member of our Development and Donor Services department, or visit www.daytonfoundation.org/unrestricted.html.