Why Establish a Field-of-Interest Discretionary Fund?
The needs of a community change over time. Many of today’s needs weren’t around 30 years ago, and neither were many of the hardworking not-for-profit organizations that have been established to help address these needs. Rather than lock your charitable gift into a few specific charities, your field-of-interest fund will stay flexible to support evolving needs and a variety of nonprofits in Greater Dayton focused on your area of interest.

The Dayton Foundation’s experienced staff and Governing Board will evaluate each grant request with your fund’s purpose in mind and any other guidelines you’ve given us to be sure your charitable wishes are honored.

Getting Started Is Easy
Select an area of philanthropic interest that’s meaningful to you. If your interest is not reflected in the following list, we can open a fund in your desired area and manage grantmaking on your behalf:

- **Animals**: support agencies that provide for the care and well-being of wild or domestic animals
- **Arts and Culture**: aid performing and visual arts organizations and cultural institutions
- **Children and Youth**: assist the physical and mental well-being of the community’s children
- **Community Development**: support local efforts to improve the quality of life in the region
- **Education**: support educational programs and initiatives (early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary)
- **Environment/Conservation**: aid in the beautification and conservation of the region’s natural environment
- **Health and Human Services**: support projects and education about physical and mental health issues and human services
- **Historic Preservation**: assist in preserving, protecting and promoting Greater Dayton’s history of creativity and invention

**Continued**
Older Adults: aid in the well-being of older adults

Social Justice: support efforts to bring about a more equitable society

Veterans, Active Duty and Retired Military: support services for the benefit of our military personnel

Unrestricted: aid the broader community in areas of greatest need at any point in time.

The Dayton Foundation’s Governing Board will award grants where they will make the most impact in the community.

Name your fund to recognize you, your family, a friend or an organization. Or, you may select a name for the fund that ensures your anonymity.

Fund Minimum and Fees

A minimum gift of $25,000 is recommended, which can be made during your lifetime or through your estate plan, such as an IRA designation or a bequest in your will. The Dayton Foundation accepts gifts of many types of assets, including cash, stock and real estate, enabling you to benefit from maximum tax advantages. Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time, with the earnings used to make grants in your chosen field of interest in perpetuity.

The Dayton Foundation handles all of the administrative details, including sending you quarterly statements of activity, for a low annual administrative fee.

We’re here to help you help others:

Michelle L. Lovely, vice president, Development and Donor Services
mlovely@daytonfoundation.org | (937) 225-9948

Joseph B. Baldasare, chief development officer
jbaldasare@daytonfoundation.org | (937) 225-9954

Jill A. Koorndyk, development officer
jkoorndyk@daytonfoundation.org | (937) 225-9944

When Helen Harmony was 12 years old, she had to give up Scouting in order to earn money picking berries. Her husband, Robert Harmony, left high school to help his family through the Depression. “We both knew early on that if we wanted to eat, we had to save our money,” Robert Harmony once said. For 49 years, the Harmonys worked as production workers, she at General Motors and he at Dayton Rubber.

After retirement, the Harmonys wanted their decades of labor to have a deeper meaning. In 1993, they created the Robert and Helen Harmony Fund for Needy Children through The Dayton Foundation. They did so, the Harmonys said, “to do something that will help little kids.” Since their passing, the Harmonys have given more than 10,000 children an opportunity to do what they otherwise couldn’t – go to camp and enjoy their childhood.