You and The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Established by dedicated donors more than 50 years ago, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) strives to be a trusted philanthropic partner. GCF and its donors inspire current and future generations to invest in a more vibrant and prosperous Greater Cincinnati where everyone can thrive.

Work with GCF to realize your charitable goals

Thanks to the generosity of donors, GCF is a permanent charitable resource for our community and a flexible, tax-advantaged giving tool for now or after your lifetime. You can make gifts to carry out almost any charitable goal. Donations can be made with cash, stock and even assets like real estate or life insurance. In 2015, individuals and organizations established 57 new funds, bringing the total to 1,859 funds set up by people like you.

How does it work?

GCF’s Governing Board, along with experts from the community, manages funds by investing wisely to ensure the assets are protected and grow over time. At the end of 2015, GCF had net assets of $533 million, putting your community foundation among the largest in the U.S.

Where does the money go?

Because of your generosity, GCF can invest across our region through grants and community leadership activities. More than $101 million in grants were made in 2015 to nonprofits. Donors like you granted more than $67.2 million from donor advised funds to causes they care about. You can give here in the region or in other communities close to your heart. Donors also contributed a total of $102 million in gifts to GCF funds in 2015.

Grants are also made from the Foundation’s Community Funds using the gifts of donors who entrusted their legacies to GCF. Thanks to its donors, GCF’s Governing Board works to help ensure a prosperous Greater Cincinnati region by investing in thriving people and vibrant places. Grants are made in the areas:

- cultural vibrancy
- economic opportunity
- educational success
- environmental stewardship
- health and wellness
- job creation
- strong communities

Private foundations also partner with us

We are proud that a number of local private foundations have chosen GCF to help carry out their charitable mission. These donors made more than $4 million in grants in 2015. GCF’s support services streamline the grantmaking process, allowing the boards of these private foundations to focus on improving our communities. They also rely on the Foundation’s expertise and vast knowledge of connections with the region’s nonprofits.

Who’s who?

GCF is directed by a volunteer Governing Board comprised of leaders of diverse, representative local groups. The day-to-day operations are carried out by an experienced professional staff. Throughout its 50-year history, volunteer committees and task forces have guided the work of the Foundation in specific areas such as investment strategy and grant review, as well as for special projects.
Where is GCF?
The Foundation is located at 200 West Fourth Street, downtown Cincinnati, in the Robert & Ruth Westheimer Center for Philanthropy. The Westheimers made the purchase of the building possible with a significant gift. It’s also the home to the Mashburn Impact Center, a meeting facility for nonprofit organizations. This beautiful meeting space was made possible by the generosity of the Mashburn family.

Did you know?
You can give directly to a variety of funds at GCF that support specific organizations, communities in our region, and causes that might ignite your charitable passion. Visit our website at gcfdn.org and click the “Give Now” button for some ideas.

Building a Legacy Together

Katie Hesse lives in Mt. Auburn and is a native of Lexington, Kentucky. L-A and Jeff Stopa reside in Burlington, Kentucky are from Michigan.

Their common bond? A love of their adopted hometowns and a desire to do good.

Both Katie and the Stopas worked with GCF to fulfill their charitable wishes through their wills.

Katie found leaving her assets to GCF’s Community Fund the logical choice.

“I don’t care where it goes as long as it goes to the greater good,” Katie said.

L-A and Jeff focused their legacy on a field of interest funds supporting their specific passions.

“When you find the organization that helps you fulfill your individual goals, that’s the vehicle that works,” Jeff said.

Well said by some hometown folks.

For more than 50 years, GCF has been helping people achieve their charitable goals, supporting nonprofit organizations, and creating lasting good work in the region. We provide a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving and offer a variety of tools to meet specific individual needs. For more information, ideas, and details about options for charitable giving, ask your professional advisor or contact GCF: