



Your Community Foundation

This is the third article in a quarterly series about the Branch County Community Foundation. In between quarterly articles, we will answer frequently asked questions each Saturday. To submit a question, email us at info@brcofoundation.org or call 517-278-4517.

Giving and Staying Involved

What if you could give a gift and partner with the Community Foundation to find high-impact programs and projects to fund with your donation? What if you could write one check and give to multiple causes you care about? Working with the Community Foundation, you can!

The Community Foundation holds over 130 separate accounts, what we call funds, most of which donors set up to support particular causes or organizations. Donor advised funds help the Community Foundation create unique solutions to issues that matter most to the donor and create greatest impact in the community.

Through donor advised funds, donors can work with the Community Foundation to help fund one or more charitable causes, organizations, and area projects and programs. Donors to make a gift (check, stock, etc.) to funds they create and support charitable spending (grants) annually or over a set period of time. Gifts to a donor advised fund will receive the same charitable deduction available to other tax payers who make charitable deductions. Donors, and in some cases their family members or other individuals, serve as advisors to the Community Foundation.

A donor advised fund within a Community Foundation can be an alternative to starting a private foundation – without the cost and tax issues. A temporary donor advised fund can be created with as little as \$1,000. A permanent donor advised fund can be created with as little as \$10,000 – much less than would be cost-effective to create a private foundation. Donor advised funds give donors of modest means the ability pursue their philanthropy goals and to gain the benefit of the Community Foundation's expertise and experience in helping to guide their giving.

One of the most unique ways to get involved is to have a Donor Advised Fund. And donors who give \$400 or more to the Forever Fund may be able to create a donor advised fund with no new fund set up fee! There's so much more we'd like you to know! To learn more, you can contact us at 517-278-4517 or info@BrCoFoundation.org.