

### **What is a community foundation?**

A community foundation is a public nonprofit organization created by donors and governed by local volunteers who manage a permanent pool of funds providing grants for initiatives and programs that address current and future issues in a specific geographic area.



### **THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc.**

Where neighbors create legacies

P.O. Box 807 · Muncie, Indiana 47308  
[www.cfmdin.org](http://www.cfmdin.org) · [\(765\) 747-7181](mailto:commfound@cfmdin.org)

The Foundation is a member  
of the Council on Foundations and  
the Indiana Grantmakers Alliance.

Confirmed in compliance with National  
Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



# **Help your town flourish...**

Create an endowment. Watch it grow.



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# Help your town flourish...



A town endowment fund is an easy and secure way for residents to support their hometown by investing in its future. Gifts to the fund are pooled and set aside for a single designated purpose: to help meet the present and future needs of the town. Donors have the assurance that their gifts will grow over time and will always be available to create, preserve, and expand those aspects of their hometown that make it special.

**How does it work?** Donors build a town fund in much the same way as individuals built their retirement or investment accounts—through regular contributions invested for growth and income. The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc., manages the funds, but all decision-making rests with the town that reaps the benefits. A panel of local citizens takes on the responsibilities of promoting and growing the endowment, soliciting and reviewing grant requests, and allocating cash awards.

**Who starts the fund?** Individuals or organizations can establish a town fund simply by expressing their intent to the staff of The Community Foundation and making an initial tax-deductible gift of \$10,000, payable to the Foundation. Once the fund is in place, donors can help it grow by including it as part of their estate plans or by making contributions at any time and in any amount. As the permanent endowment grows, so does the size of the grants.

**What are the benefits of a town fund?** By establishing a town fund, donors create a permanent mechanism that enables residents to “give back” to their hometown. Grants result in tangible enhancements to the community, generate pride, encourage family philanthropy, and create a sense of progress. Individual gifts to the fund are tax deductible and can pay tribute to a person or commemorate a special event in an honoree’s life.

An endowment fund is a way for residents whose roots run deep in a community to preserve the town’s past and provide for its future.

*For more information about town endowment funds, contact The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc., at (765) 747-7181 or visit [www.cfmdin.org](http://www.cfmdin.org)*

