



PROVIDING DONORS WITH  
AN IMPORTANT OPTION AS  
THEY SEEK TO MAKE A  
LASTING DIFFERENCE.

For good. For ever.®



100 N. Ripley, Suite F  
P.O. Box 495  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989.354.6881  
Toll free: 877.354.6881  
Fax: 989.356.3319  
[www.cfnem.org](http://www.cfnem.org)



## DONOR SERVICES GUIDE

If you are looking for a way to benefit your community now and in the future, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, or one of its affiliates, may be for you.

The Community Foundation adheres to the highest standards while encouraging members of our communities to create endowment funds for the benefit of northeast Michigan.

We practice sound stewardship in the management and long term care of the funds entrusted to us, and we understand that individual donors have different needs, charitable interests, and financial circumstances.

Since 1974, caring individuals throughout northeast Michigan have utilized the Community Foundation to create permanent endowment funds that support charitable causes and improve the quality of life in our communities.



**FLEXIBILITY** – Whether your charitable interests are broad or narrow, you can accomplish virtually any charitable purpose through the Foundation. As unrestricted, your gift will meet changing community needs; as designated, it will be used to benefit a specific purpose or organization(s).

**SIMPLICITY** – The Foundation takes care of the ongoing administrative and reporting details of operating an endowment fund and monitors the success of grants after they are made.

**LOCAL BENEFIT** – Grants are made for the betterment of northeast Michigan, focusing on needs close to home.

**TAX ADVANTAGES** – Gifts to the Foundation receive the maximum charitable deduction for income, gift and estate tax purposes.

**ECONOMY** – Funds are commingled for investment and administrative purposes. Lower management costs mean that more money ultimately goes to charity.

**SECURITY** - Careful stewardship by the Foundation's board and staff assures prudent management and accountability to donor's intentions.

**RELEVANCE** – If a gift's purpose becomes obsolete or a designated agency goes out of business, the Foundation will ensure that the gift continues to address similar needs.

**PERMANENCE** – Because endowment funds are invested for permanence, they are truly the gift that will keep on giving. A fund you establish today will continue to improve the quality of life in our community, now and forever.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY** – The Foundation assures that funds are used for charitable purposes and makes a full accounting to the community through annual reports certified by independent auditors.

**SERVICE AND ADDED VALUE** – You can be assured that your charitable wishes will be met in perpetuity and that your fund is and will continue to be professionally managed, regularly evaluated for performance and independently audited each year.



**MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES PROGRAM**

A memorial contribution or tribute gift honoring an individual’s birthday, anniversary or other special occasion is a simple and traditional way to show you care. Best of all, as part of an endowment, your gift will continue to give far into the future. Memorial and tribute gifts may be made in any amount, are tax deductible, and are promptly acknowledged.

**GIFTS TO EXISTING ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

You may wish to contribute any amount to a fund which is already in existence at the Foundation. If you do not specify a particular fund, your contribution will be added to one of the Foundation’s General Community Impact Endowment Funds for your geographic area.

**ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT, NAMED ENDOWMENT FUND**

Each of us is connected to our community in a different way. Many of us feel a responsibility to give something back to our community that will make a difference in the lives of the next generation. The Foundation provides donors with an important option as they seek ways to make that lasting difference while maximizing their charitable giving – permanent, named endowment funds.

You may choose any name you wish for the fund you establish and may make additional contributions to it at anytime. All funds are professionally managed and administration fees are kept low.

A minimum gift of \$5,000 is required to establish a named fund. The Foundation offers the following types of named funds:



**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** – These are the cornerstone funds of any foundation. Trustees are given the discretion to determine how the income can best be used; therefore, these gifts provide the most flexibility in providing for the changing needs of our communities.

**FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS** – these funds are established to support charitable purposes in general areas of interest specified by the donor, for example, the arts or education.

**DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS** – Designated funds are those in which the donor specifies one or more organizations to permanently receive the fund’s annual income.

**DONOR ADVISED FUNDS** – Donor advised funds permit involvement by the donor in the grantmaking process. Donors are given the opportunity to make recommendations with respect to the annual distribution of the fund’s income.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS** – Donors may restrict the scholarship to a certain area of study, a specific school or to reflect the characteristics of a memorialized individual.

**AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS** – These funds are established by a charitable organization to provide for its own ongoing support.

**OUR AFFILIATES**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan serves nine counties in northeast Michigan. The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan began by serving the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle. In 1997 we established our three affiliates: North Central Michigan Community Foundation serves the counties of Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda; Straits Area Community Foundation serves Cheboygan County and Mackinaw City; and our third affiliate is the Iosco County Community Foundation. Each affiliate has its own local board that helps in determining the needs in the communities they serve. Each affiliate also has a voting representative on the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan Board of Trustees, the legal entity responsible for decision making.

**THE FOUNDATION’S LEGACY SOCIETY**

The Community Foundation’s Legacy Society serves to recognize and thank individuals who are planning future gifts that will provide benefits to our communities in the coming years. Legacy gifts can be added to an existing fund or be used to establish a new named endowment. If you have made plans to leave a charitable gift to the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan or any of our affiliates through your estate, please let us know. For those who wish, their anonymity will be protected.



**ASSETS COMMONLY USED TO MAKE A GIFT OR ESTABLISH A FUND**

Endowment funds can be created using cash; publicly traded securities, bonds; retirement plan assets; closely held stock; insurance policies, real estate; a family business; the remainder assets of a charitable remainder trust; the remainder assets of a charitable gift annuity; income from a charitable lead trust; and other assets, such as copyrights, royalties, timber, and livestock. A previously established private foundation may also be transferred to the Community Foundation.

**GIFT METHODS**

Just as a donor has several options with regard to the type of asset used to make a gift, there are also several methods that can be used to make a gift. Gifts may come in the form of outright gifts of cash, credit card gifts (either online from our website or by calling our office), stocks, or bonds; Payable on Death (POD) beneficiary designations on bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, and CD’s in either single or joint ownership); Transfer on Death (TOD) beneficiary designations on securities (stocks and bonds) or real estate (either single or joint ownership); a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy or retirement plan; bequests; gifts from wills or trusts; gifts of remainder interest in real estate (with donor retaining life estate); and other life income gifts including charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts; and charitable lead trusts.

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?**

To learn more about how your Community Foundation can help you give back in a way that is meaningful and beneficial to you, please call us at (989) 354-6881. Our knowledgeable staff is happy to help you make your charitable dreams a reality.