

# WHAT ARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS?



Community foundations are tax-exempt public charities serving millions of people who share a common interest — improving the quality of life in their area.

- Community foundations have expertise in the areas they fund and make competitive grants directly to area nonprofits using the revenue generated by their endowments.
- Community foundations manage both unrestricted endowments as well as funds in which individuals maintain varying degrees of control, such as donor advised funds, designated funds and supporting organizations.
- Community foundations help their donors determine the best place for dollars to be granted within each donor's areas of interest to improve the community.
- Community foundations do more than make grants. They develop funding collaboratives with other foundations to meet broad community needs. They also partner with governments, corporations and other entities to develop new strategies to make systemic change. They convene like-minded organizations to develop new frameworks for giving to deal with changing community needs.
- All community foundations are overseen by a volunteer board of leading citizens and run by professionals with expertise in identifying their community's needs.

For more information about The Chicago Community Trust, please visit [www.cct.org](http://www.cct.org).