



# Working with your Community Foundation

QUAD CITIES  
**Community  
Foundation** 

Generosity lives here.®



# There's more to the Quad Cities Community Foundation than you might expect.

Most people know us as a place that supports nonprofits through the millions of dollars in grants we award each year. The truth is, that's a major part of our work—and it's a privilege to award grants and celebrate the work of nonprofits through philanthropy throughout the year. We make grants of all sizes to nonprofits of all sizes.

Others know us as the place donors turn for establishing funds to support a community or cause close to their heart. Through expert advice and wise investment strategies, we've assisted individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits in building hundreds of millions of dollars that provide annual support for the region. Incredible, right?

Both of those things are possible because we work together with our community to move our regional vision forward. That's why you'll find us "at the table" learning from our expert partners about regional issues like affordable housing and early childhood education—and using our knowledge and network to bring people together.

We are laser-focused on building a vibrant and inclusive Quad Cities region, one in which all members of our bi-state community are engaged in realizing our future.

**Our nonprofit partners—yes, you—play a vital role in bringing that vision to life. In the pages that follow, we hope to give you a deeper look into how we can work together to accomplish our respective missions.**



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We take the long view—that the actions we take today can have lasting impacts over the next decades, century, and beyond. When you plant a tree, you're not going to see acorns on it for 40 years, but when you do, it's so impressive. Endowment is complementary to that long view: making sure we have sustainable ways to continue to meet our mission in the long term is so incredibly important. And it couldn't be easier to start an endowment with the Community Foundation. Our only regret is that we didn't do it 20 years ago.

**Brian Ritter**  
Executive Director, Nahant Marsh Education Center



# You have a vision. We're here to help make it happen.

We know that while support can come in many different forms, funding is one type just about all nonprofit organizations need.

Every grant we award is a snapshot of our mission to transform the region through the generosity of donors. Whether that grant is providing general operating support, funding a specific program, or strengthening an organization's capacity, it embodies how we work with donors to help their gifts reach the causes that matter to them. It also represents how we work with nonprofits to deepen the impact they're able to make on our community.

We're committed to supporting organizations of all sizes. And whether you're writing your first grant application or your hundredth, we're here to help you be as successful as possible. Reach out to our staff. We'll make sure you have every opportunity to put forward your best case for grant support.

Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/grants](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/grants) to learn more, including the purpose and guidelines for each grant program.



# But grants aren't the whole story.

To effectively serve our community, local nonprofits need staying power. And for long-term financial stability, nothing beats the support of an endowment. By building a nonprofit endowment fund with us, you unlock a permanent, flexible source of funding for your organization.

Here's how it works:

- 1** Pooled and invested with our other assets, your endowment fund earns a return that's distributed to you as an unrestricted grant to support your mission every year.
- 2** We provide training and support for endowment-building with your constituents.
- 3** Over time, as your fund increases through gifts, investment returns, and the power of compound interest, your annual distribution will grow as well.

Your donors benefit, too—and not just from seeing your organization thrive! Establishing a nonprofit endowment fund with the Community Foundation opens up new avenues for giving since we can facilitate complex gifts like gift annuities, gifts of stock, real estate gifts, cryptocurrency, charitable remainder trusts, and more. And all donor gifts to your endowment fund are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/nonprofitendowments](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/nonprofitendowments) to learn more.

## Here's a glimpse of what we fund.

### Capacity Building

Capacity building projects like strategic planning, training, and equipment upgrades

### Operating Support

General operating support and program support for successful ongoing efforts in specific fields of interest like education, health, and the environment

### Youth

Issues important to young people in our region through Teens for Tomorrow

### Disaster Recovery

Disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts

# There are so many ways to support your community.

We often say that if you have an interest in being generous (and we aren't just talking about money), there's a place for you at the Quad Cities Community Foundation. We have a wealth of tools, resources, programs, and knowledge at our fingertips so that philanthropy will also sit at the center of our community.

Here's a glimpse into ways you might partner with us. Curious to learn more? Pick up the phone, or let's grab coffee. We love connecting.

## Endowed funds

Endowed funds offer a permanent source of support for nonprofits and causes. We provide investment strategy and oversight and award grants that meet the fund's intention.

## Non-endowed funds

Non-endowed funds act as savings accounts of sorts that can still grow through smart investing but can ultimately be completely spent down as needs and opportunities present themselves.

## Complex gifting

Complex gifting vehicles like charitable gift annuities and stock gifts offer creative ways for your donors to give generously—and oftentimes receive tax benefits, too! We're experts on the how so you don't have to be.

## Competitive grants

Our competitive grant programs give you the chance to apply for a wide range of funding opportunities throughout the year.

## Scholarship funds

Scholarship funds provide financial resources to students of all ages and backgrounds so they can pursue an education at a trade school, community college, four-year institution, or graduate school. More than \$500,000 is awarded every year! Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/scholarships) to learn more.

## Fiscal sponsorship

Fiscal sponsorship helps people bring transformative ideas to life before officially forming a nonprofit. We offer our legal and tax-exempt status to accept charitable gifts to groups ready to tackle an issue or opportunity head-on.

## Space

Literally. Our community rooms at our office are available to nonprofits, free of charge. All you have to do is call, see if it's available, and show up with all your brilliance.

## Meeting other people

We know a lot of people. And we spend a lot of time introducing leaders and donors and nonprofits across the region. If you're looking to connect with someone but don't know how, there's a good chance we can help open the door for you. Just ask!

## Convenings

CEOLink and DevelopmentLink were established to share knowledge among our philanthropic community. Through virtual and in-person gatherings, we coordinate these networks so you and your nonprofit peers can learn from, support, and inspire one another.

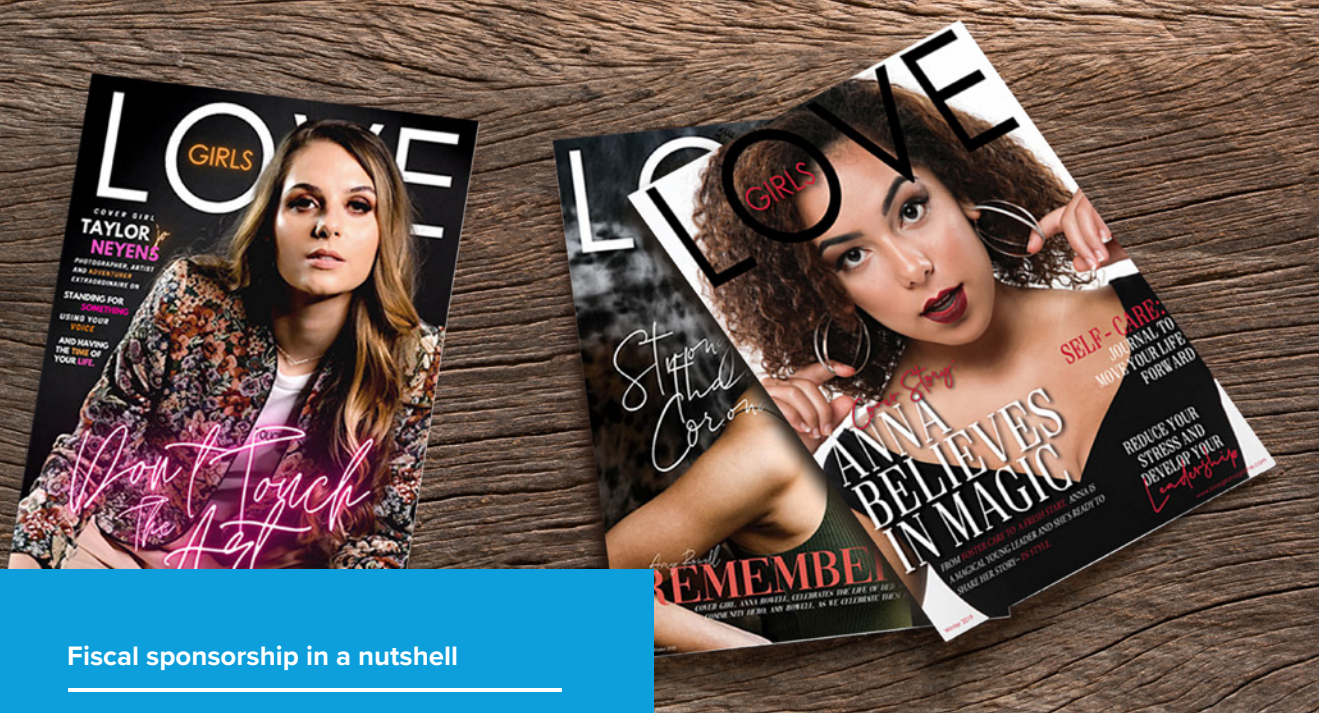
## Disaster recovery

Disaster preparedness and recovery is our specialty. For better or worse, recent history has reminded us that it takes a community to recover from natural or man-made disasters. We have knowledge, a network, and a fund to bring people together in times of great need.

## Teens for Tomorrow

Teens for Tomorrow is our youth philanthropy program, which shines a light on issues important to teens and offers resources so they can support causes meaningful to them. You should see what they go out into the world and do after the program! Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/t4t](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/t4t) to learn more.





### Fiscal sponsorship in a nutshell

When you choose the Community Foundation as a fiscal sponsor, you get more than a back office. Our expert team manages the charitable gifts you receive so that you can access those gifts, as well as grants to support your work. That means you can channel more of your time, energy, and resources into the things that will make your mission go the furthest.

## How fiscal sponsorship helps non-profits thrive.

When Jasmine Babers and her mother, Teresa, first conceived of LOVE Girls Magazine in 2012, she knew the idea would go far. “What’s the date today? Write it down,” Jasmine told Teresa. “You’re going to remember this because everything’s about to change!”

She was right. But getting to where it is today was no small feat for this small nonprofit. In its early years, Teresa was charged with managing the organization’s operations. When a \$10,000 gift came their way, Teresa knew she needed help to steward it responsibly. On a recommendation from a friend, she turned to the Community Foundation.

“The support of the Community Foundation truly helped us thrive where other small nonprofits might have struggled,” Teresa said. For one, leveraging the Community Foundation as a fiscal sponsor gave LOVE

Girls the time to focus on building the magazine and reaching girls instead of worrying about accounting and managing financial records. At the same time, the Community Foundation’s 501(c)(3) status meant that LOVE Girls now had access to grant opportunities only open to organizations officially recognized by the IRS as nonprofits.

Ultimately, the relationship has been a way to keep LOVE Girls’ focus and resources trained on the organization’s mission. “When you’re caught up in an idea and you have all this passion for your project, money is the last thing you’re thinking about,” said Teresa. “In that way, the services we get from the Community Foundation are so valuable. For small nonprofits looking for support, they’re the best place to start.”

## Connections that count.

Faced with responding to a rapidly escalating global healthcare crisis in the spring of 2020, Russell Medley knew one organization he had to have in the room.

“The Community Foundation knows how to make connections happen,” said Medley, chair of Disaster Ready Quad Cities.

The Community Foundation’s ability to combine leadership and collaboration proved essential in shaping an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the joint efforts and collective knowledge of regional funders, donors of all stripes, nonprofits across the community, and other members of the Disaster Ready Quad Cities network, the Community Foundation’s Disaster Recovery Fund was able to raise and grant back out just over \$1.8 million where it was most needed.

But disaster is only one example of the kinds of challenges and opportunities that no one person or organization can address on their own. Whether it’s championing the Q2030 Regional Action Plan to

bolster the Quad Cities’ collective vision or joining coalitions like the Quad Cities Housing Council to advance affordable housing throughout our community, the Community Foundation is committed to connection and knowledge-sharing as guiding principles for a more vibrant, inclusive community. We listen, lead, and act to amplify goodness in our community.

“If you see someone from the Community Foundation at an event, go up and introduce yourself to them, because they’re going to be an invaluable resource,” said Medley. “You don’t know it yet, but they will be.”

### Gather here

We host a variety of convenings to help our community’s nonprofits learn from each other. At CEOLink and DevelopmentLink sessions, nonprofit executive directors and fundraising professionals lead discussions on topics chosen by the group. We also host Funders Forum and Quad City Planned Giving Council meetings to bring together philanthropic leaders in the region.

Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/convenings](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/convenings) to learn more.





# We believe we are stronger together when we work together.

And we know that the work of transformation can only happen through collaboration.

When you connect with us, expect to meet fellow community members deeply interested in building a relationship grounded in trust and enthusiasm for your mission—and what we can do together.

**If we can offer a solution, connect you to someone, or help make your mission successful, we'll do it. Let's connect and continue the work of generosity.**

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The majority of our work happens in our service area of Rock Island County, Illinois, and/or Scott County, Iowa. But thanks to our geographic affiliate funds, we can reach communities beyond the Quad Cities, including Cedar County, Van Buren County, Fulton, Geneseo, Morrison, and Mount Carroll.

Visit [www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/grants](http://www.QCCommunityFoundation.org/grants) to learn more.





We are proud to support regional communities through Geographic Affiliate Funds started by  
**Community Foundation of Cedar County • Community Foundation of Van Buren County**  
**Fulton Association for Community Enrichment • Geneseo is for Tomorrow**  
**Morrison Area Community Foundation • Mount Carroll Community Foundation**

852 Middle Road / Suite 100 / Bettendorf, IA 52722 / (563) 326-2840  
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