

Giving Guide



Greetings From Your Community Foundation

Since 1989 the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound has advanced community philanthropy across Lewis, Mason, and Thurston County by connecting donors to our community's most pressing needs and opportunities. We invite you to explore this Giving Guide to learn about the many resources we offer to individuals, groups, and organizations as your local community foundation.

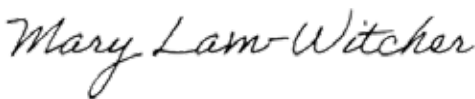
Together, we can build communities that are vibrant, resilient, and welcoming to all. Whether we are addressing immediate needs or investing in larger projects with a long-term vision, we welcome your partnership and willingness to join us in the work of ***growing a lasting culture of generosity and well-being in the South Puget Sound through connection, leadership, and investment.***

Thank you for entrusting us to walk alongside you on our shared path toward creating charitable legacies. We also encourage you to reach out to our experienced team by phone at 360.705.3340 at any time!

In community,



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About the Community Foundation

We facilitate community generosity.

Founded in 1989, the Community Foundation helps individuals, families, and businesses realize their philanthropic goals. As the community foundation for Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties, we work with donors to invest in community solutions and support the organizations that make our region vibrant and healthy.



We partner with nonprofits and communities to create change.

Every year, we team up with amazing people to make a difference locally. At the Community Foundation, everyone is welcome to invest in critical needs and opportunities through our strategic, flexible, inclusive grant programs. From donors who believe in our young people's potential to students pursuing their goals to everyone who boosts the vital role of local nonprofits in creating thriving communities—we can do more together than anyone can do alone.

The Community Foundation inspires philanthropy by putting charitable dollars to work for the benefit of people in our community. **We envision a region where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in communities that are sustainable, equitable, and resilient.**

Our Values

We approach our work with a long-term time horizon. Our values are the core of how we go about our work and what makes our vision possible.

We **recognize and honor** the diversity of the people and cultures in our region, **weave equity** into all we do, and strive to **foster inclusive spaces** where everyone belongs.



We **respect and learn** from the expertise of people across our communities, **seek feedback**, and **value what we learn** from actively listening to diverse perspectives.

As stewards of permanent community resources for this region, **we are committed to working responsibly** to enhance the wellbeing of current and future generations.

We **prioritize giving and seeking to earn trust** as central to the relationships that make our work successful and the community that gives our work purpose.

We **participate in and foster partnerships** because working together makes it possible for our community to pursue sustainable solutions to complex issues.

By the Numbers

Year established:
1989

Amount granted since inception:
\$29M
...and counting!

Charitable assets:
\$44M

Funds under management:
135

Grants and scholarships awarded in 2024:
\$4.3M

Give Back to the Place You Love

You can make a difference for your community by establishing a fund with the Community Foundation.

Why choose us:

- We offer flexible, customized giving options that will help you achieve your charitable goals.
- We are experienced, knowledgeable grantmakers who know the community, its needs, and the organizations making an impact.
- Get the opportunity to connect and engage with other donors, nonprofits, and community leaders that care about our communities as much as you do.
- Since 1989, generous individuals, families, and businesses have partnered with us to **simplify their giving and maximize their impact**.

Ways to Give



Invest in Us
Give to support our work of addressing our communities' most pressing needs and promising opportunities.



Give to an Existing Fund
Make a meaningful gift to one of our established funds to support education, health, the environment, and more!



Establish a Fund
By creating a new fund, you can make grants to the causes and organizations closest to your heart.



Leave a Legacy
Continue to care into the future with a planned gift and celebrate your commitment as a Legacy Circle member.

How We Put Your Generosity to Work

Generosity is for everyone. It sparks hope and possibility and embraces the needs of our vibrant communities with an everlasting impact that provides real people with a joyful experience in all areas of life. We can uplift and enact this shared truth by giving generously to the communities we know and love.

The Foundation offers flexible giving options and six different fund types to meet donors' interests and charitable goals. The fund type that works best for you ultimately depends on how involved you wish to be in making grants or distributions from your fund.

Agency Fund

These funds are for nonprofits that want to provide perpetual income to their organization without the administrative burden of managing an endowment themselves.

Community Fund

These funds support the Foundation's community and impact programs. Gifts to community funds provide the greatest flexibility and boost our ability to respond to changing needs and emerging opportunities.

Designated Fund

These funds are designed for donors who want to support one or more specific organizations over time.

Donor Advised Fund

These funds are for individuals, families, businesses, and others who want a convenient and flexible way to participate in grantmaking.

Field of Interest Fund

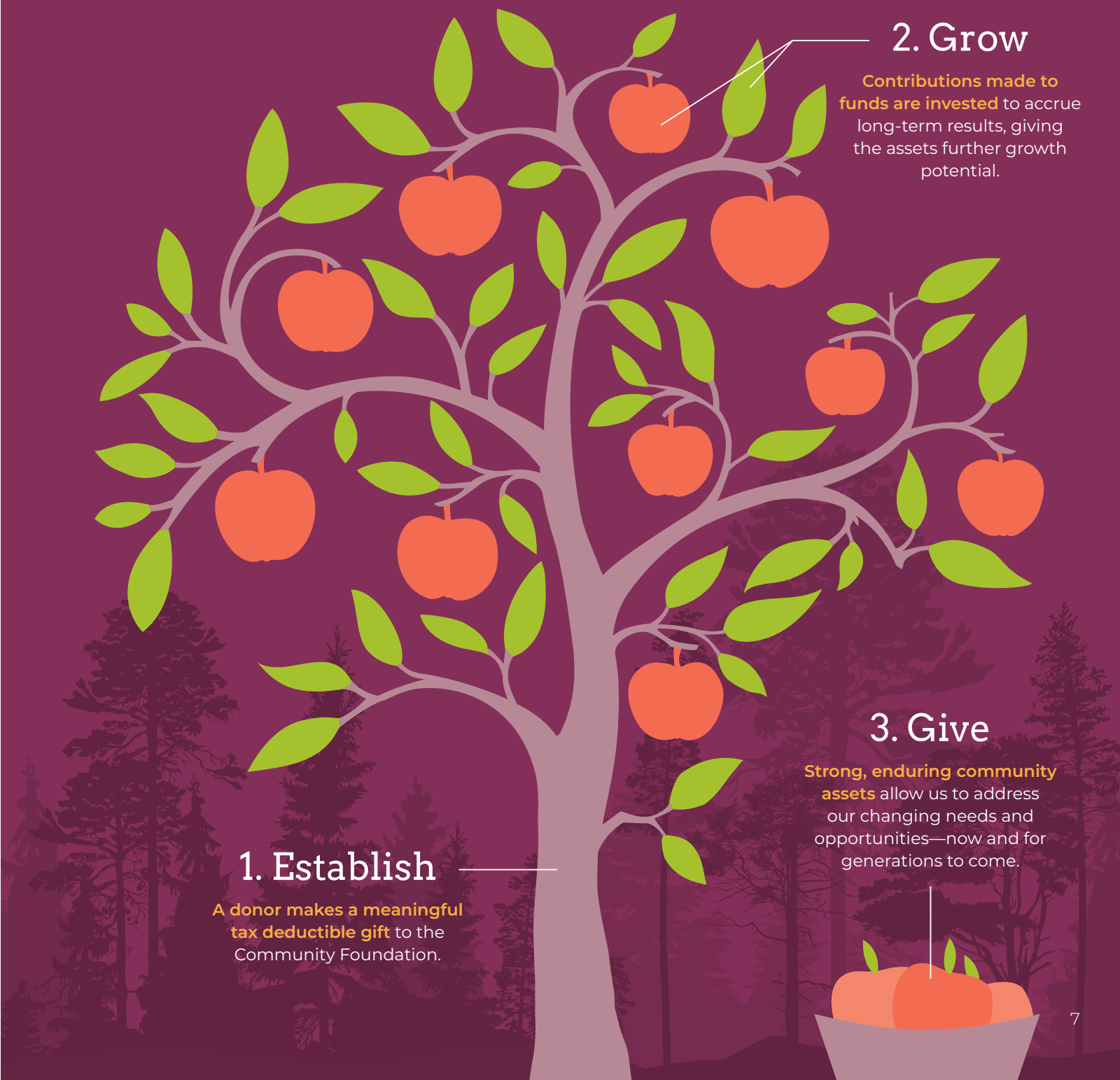
These funds are for donors who want to support grants around a specific cause or interest, such as the arts, education, health, the environment, and more!

Scholarship Fund

These funds are for donors who want to help local students pursue their higher education goals. Donors can establish scholarship criteria or leave it to the discretion of the Foundation.

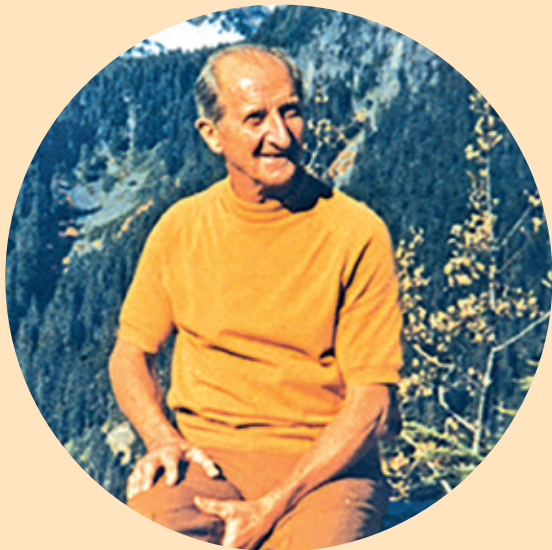
Your generosity turns into grant dollars and scholarships that transform our communities into more vibrant places to live and support a wide range of philanthropic goals that make a difference in our communities.

So, how does this all work?



FUND SPOTLIGHT

Irving A. Lassen Foundation Community Fund



Lassen was known as a quiet man, well respected in the business community, and admired for his lifelong interest in philanthropy. When he passed away in 1973, he bequeathed \$2 million of his estate to the creation of the Lassen Foundation. The Foundation’s mission was focused first and foremost on benefiting Thurston County, it was managed by several trustees until 2010, when they chose to transfer its assets to an unrestricted community grantmaking fund at the Community Foundation.

“The Community Foundation was honored to be able to continue the good work of the retiring Lassen Foundation trustees. The Irving A. Lassen Foundation Fund is a long-term reliable funding source that will continue to honor Irving Lassen’s legacy and benefit our community forever.”

— JOHN CLEES, FORMER BOARD CHAIR

Community Fund

Establishing an unrestricted community fund allows donors to champion our region’s greatest needs and opportunities. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff team applies these flexible funds towards effecting strategies to help our area thrive.

How an Community Fund Works

- 1 The donor establishes the fund with an initial contribution and names the fund.
- 2 The Community Foundation identifies organizations through its community engagement work and invests in organizations making the greatest impact across our region.

Donor Advised Fund

A donor advised fund is a flexible giving vehicle that offers immediate tax benefits and allows donors to support the charities of their choice on their schedule through grant recommendations.

How a Donor Advised Fund Works

- 1 Donor gives assets to the Community Foundation who stewards the fund.
- 2 Donor evaluates and recommends grants with the assistance of the Community Foundation.
- 3 The Community Foundation distributes grants from the fund to eligible nonprofits.

Field of Interest Fund

A field of interest fund allows donors to support a specific area of interest, such as the environment, social justice, or healthy youth, and is managed by the Foundation.

How a Field of Interest Fund Works

- 1 The donor establishes the fund with an initial contribution and selects the field of interest they would like to support.
- 2 The Community Foundation identifies organizations in the donor’s selected field of interest or geography where grant funds will have the greatest impact.

FUND SPOTLIGHT

Harold & Inge Marcus Designated Fund



Hal worked as an engineer and real estate investor, and Inge as a professor of biology at Saint Martin’s University. Both were longtime philanthropists, and when Hal Marcus passed away in March 2017, he left a \$5.6 million endowment to the Community Foundation. Half of the endowment supports ten specific organizations he and Inge chose, and the other half supports grants to three areas that mattered most to them: filling basic needs, improving economic opportunities, and advancing health and wellness.

“I have never known anyone who worked harder than Hal to give money away. There are workaholics, but Hal, you might say was a philanthropy-holic.”

— FRANK MINTON, GIFT PLANNING ADVISOR TO THE MARCUSES

Designated Fund

A designated fund supports your favorite organization(s) in perpetuity or over a set number of years.

How a Designated Fund Works:

- 1

Donor establishes the fund, names the fund, and designates one or more nonprofits.
- 2

Each year, the Community Foundation distributes grants to the named organizations—forever.

Scholarship Fund

An investment in our local young people’s education is an investment in a better future for our communities. Scholarship funds may support varying levels of education and can bridge the gap between educational aspirations and financial limitations, making higher education more accessible to more students.

How a Scholarship Fund Works:

- 1

The donor establishes the fund with an initial contribution and works with the Foundation to define the fund’s purpose.
- 2

Annually, the Community Foundation awards the scholarships to the students selected by the scholarship committees.

Agency Fund

Agency Funds are established by nonprofit organizations to provide long term, often endowed, support to their own mission and operations, with investment and administrative support from the Foundation.

How an Agency Fund Works

- 1

The nonprofit establishes the fund with an initial contribution, names the fund, and sets its distribution preferences.
- 2

The Foundation manages and invests the fund, while the fund provides a stable source of funding for the nonprofit organization to achieve its goals and make a lasting impact.

FUND SPOTLIGHT

Learning Seed Foundation Scholarship Fund



Marsha Todano Long and Merritt D. Long were both blessed to have parents who stressed that education is the key to a good life. As they approached retirement, they thought carefully about how to help others get the college education that opened the doors to success for them. They shared a particular concern for students of color and students who've faced significant challenges in their families. Out of this concern, the Learning Seed Scholarship was born in 2001.



About 80% of scholarships are awarded to students who are the first in their families to attend college. “What we didn’t anticipate was the impact of these scholarships not just on the students, but on their whole families. When one person goes to college, it can inspire a new direction for their siblings, their cousins, and sometimes even a parent.”

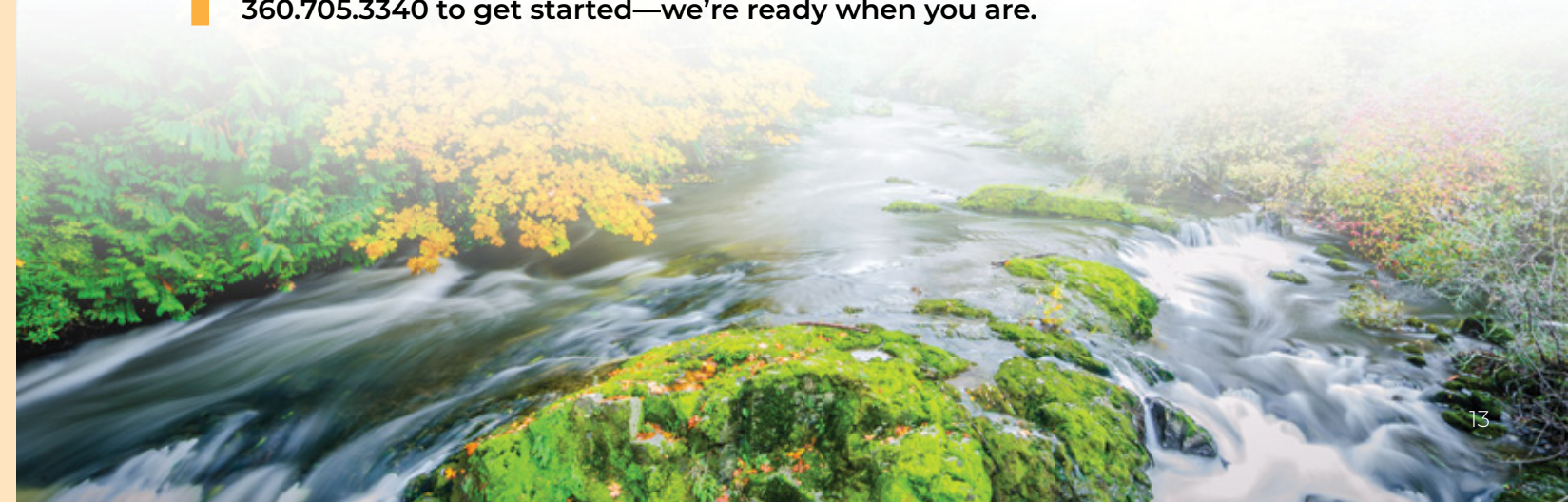
— MERRITT LONG

Administration Details for Our Funds

- **The fund minimum** is \$10,000 for Agency, Community, Designated, Donor Advised, and Field of Interest Funds. The fund minimum for Scholarship Funds is \$25,000 for non-endowed funds, and \$100,000 for endowed funds. The fund can be built over time, and the minimum distribution is \$2,500 for scholarships and \$250 for other fund types (except for during Give Local when the amount is reduced to \$50).
- **Fees:** Annual fund administration and management is 2% (minimum of \$250 per year); investment service fees are approximately 0.26%.
- **The Community Foundation handles all back office and administrative work**, including, but not limited to, required state and federal filings, issuing checks, corresponding with grantees, and producing fund statements.
- **The Community Foundation conducts due diligence** to ensure that organizations named to receive the grants are in good standing with the IRS.
- Funds can either be **endowed or non-endowed**.
- Gifts to the fund are **irrevocable**.

Start something meaningful today!

Create a named fund that reflects your values and supports the causes you care about—now or in the future. Whether you want to uplift a specific nonprofit, support a local community, invest in an area you’re passionate about, or give the Community Foundation flexibility to meet evolving needs, we’ll help you craft a fund that makes a lasting difference. **Let’s talk about what you want your giving to do. Call us at 360.705.3340 to get started—we’re ready when you are.**



Types of Assets

We make it easy to convert your assets into charitable impact.

Cash

You can give by check, credit card or wire transfer. Give now at thecomunityfoundaiton.com/givetoday.

Appreciated Securities

Publicly traded stocks and mutual funds.

Real Estate

Residential and commercial property, farmland, and timberland.

Business Interest

Privately held stock, limited partnerships, and other business interests.

Transfer from Charitable Entities

If you have a private foundation or other donor advised fund and are concerned with succession planning or don't have time to manage your foundation, you can transfer those assets to the Community Foundation to create a fund.

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA directly into many types of Community Foundation funds (with the exception of donor advised funds) without first having to recognize the distribution as income. If you are subject to the required minimum distributions from your IRA, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of that requirement.

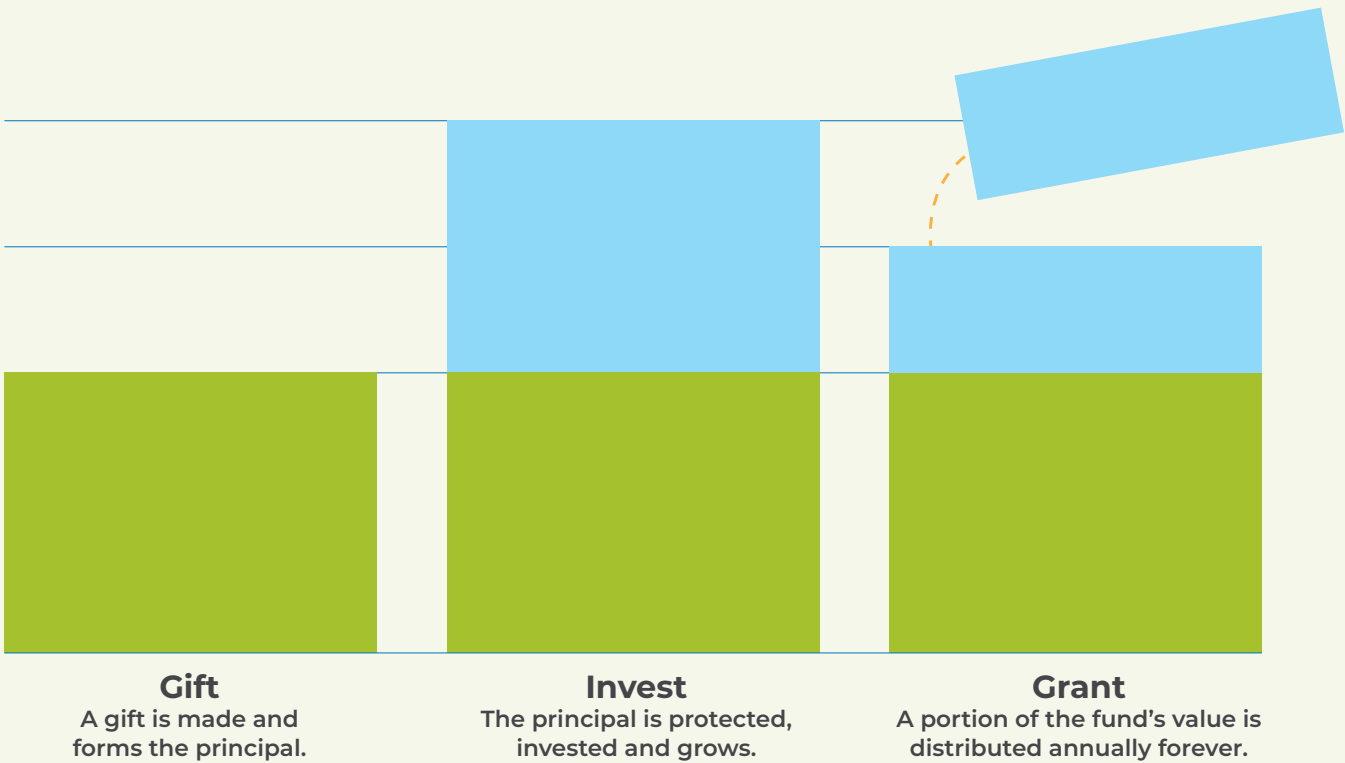
Bequests, Retirement Plan Assets, and Life Insurance

- You can create or add to a Community Foundation fund through your will or living trust.
- Name the Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy.

The Power of Endowment

Endowed funds are permanent, creating a pool of charitable dollars that can address the causes you care about or support organizations of your choice—now and forever.

Endowments offer a unique and powerful way to create a lasting impact on causes and organizations by providing a reliable source of income in perpetuity. For example, a \$250,000 initial gift could distribute \$250,000 in grants over 25 years while also continuing to grow beyond the initial amount. This allows communities to plan and execute their visions for positive change while inspiring donors to give confidently and generously to support causes they care about. With endowments, you can create a lasting legacy of impact and build a stronger, more vibrant society for all.



Giving Worksheet — Getting Started

Working with the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound is a personalized process. To get started, consider how your charitable giving can reflect your philanthropic goals. Answering the questions on this page will help create a personalized giving strategy that fulfills your charitable intentions.

- ☐ **Why are you giving?**
What are your values and beliefs? Many donors want their values to inform their philanthropy. What are your motivations for philanthropy?
- ☐ **What do you want to achieve?**
How do you want to change your community through giving? What do you hope will happen as a result of your giving?

Here are a few ideas and suggestions to get you thinking:
 - **Big challenges:** poverty, societal inequities, education, climate change, inclusion and belonging
 - **Populations:** women, race/ethnicity, youth, immigrants
 - **Fields of interest:** arts & culture, community leadership, youth & education, environment, food & food systems, health & wellness, housing, human & social services
- ☐ **Choose the type of fund you would like to establish.**
Do you want to be involved in your grantmaking decisions? Would you prefer the Community Foundation distribute funds to serve the community's most pressing needs? Do you have specific organizations you want to support?
- ☐ **Decide whether you would like your fund to be an endowment or a "spend down" fund.**
Do you want to give during your lifetime? Would you prefer to leave a legacy? Or both? Do you want the fund to be permanent? Or spent down over time?

Legacy Circle

One Legacy, Everlasting Impact

The Legacy Circle recognizes community members who have left a gift in their will or estate plan to the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. Donors who notify the Foundation of their plans receive special recognition (unless they prefer to remain anonymous) and invitations to Legacy Circle events.

Making a legacy gift is easy and flexible and can be adjusted at any time in the future should the circumstances warrant it. Your generosity as a Legacy Circle donor is a permanent reminder of what you value and stand for. It represents your extraordinary commitment and belief in the right of every community member—across generations—to thrive!

Sample Will Language

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, a Washington State nonprofit corporation, located at 212 Union Avenue SE, Suite 102, Olympia, WA 98501, EIN 94-3121390 (Fill in the blank with one of the following three choices):

1. The sum of \$ from my estate...
2. % of the rest and remainder of my estate...
3. All of the rest, residue, and the remainder of my estate...

to be used for the organization's general use and purpose.

*If you are considering a bequest but would like to ensure that your gift will be used for a specific purpose, please let us know. We would be happy to work with you and your legal advisor to identify ways to meet your charitable objectives and craft language to accomplish your goals. You may reach us at 360.705.3340.



Make a Lasting Difference

Invest in your region
with the **Community
Foundation of South
Puget Sound**

When you give with the Community Foundation, you're connecting to a powerful network of generous people who share your vision for a stronger, more vibrant South Puget Sound. Enduring community assets allow us to address the changing needs and opportunities of our home. Established in 1989 and thanks to the generosity of thousands of local donors, the Community Foundation has evolved to become a place to address unmet needs and build strong, lasting community assets so that people want to live, work, and stay here—now and for years to come. **Ready to make a difference? Let's talk. Call us at 360.705.3340 or visit www.thecommunityfoundation.com to get started.**



Leave 10

SOUTH SOUND

How might your legacy support both your loved ones and your community?

Your estate plan is more than just instructions—it's a reflection of your values, priorities, and the future you hope to shape. Many people find that leaving just 10% of their estate to the causes they care about still provides more than enough for their loved ones while creating a powerful legacy of impact in the community they call home.

As part of a broader movement encouraging intentional giving, the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound invites you to explore how a planned gift can reflect your values and support the place you've called home.

We're here to help you explore your options.