

Role of a Community Foundation

In 1914, The Cleveland Foundation brought the model of the community foundation to life. Prior to that, formal philanthropy was limited to those with vast personal wealth. By forming an endowment or trust from pooled contributions, the community foundation broadened opportunities for charitable giving.

A community foundation is a hybrid, unlike any other species in the philanthropic forest. The community foundation resembles a private foundation in that both are grantmakers; but it is unlike a private foundation in that it has multiple donors, a constant influx of funds from new donors, and a board that, by law, must represent the community rather than the foundation's primary donors.

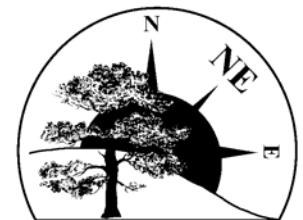
The community foundation is also like a nonprofit organization in that it seeks funds from the donor community; but it is unlike the nonprofit organization in that it delivers few services directly to the community, and instead grants money and other assistance to nonprofits so that they can better deliver those services.

The nonprofit agency has one field of interest; the community foundation looks to the well-being of the total community, not just one part. The nonprofit agency asks the donor to support its mission; the community foundation serves the interests of the donor, and also accepts unrestricted funds for the general good of the community.

Community Foundations uniquely, and by regulations, must also serve three publics: donors, the nonprofit sector, and the community as a whole. The community foundation is, in short, unique.

The Purpose of a Community Foundation

- ◆ Professionally manage and distribute revenues, and portions of the principal when permitted, from donors' charitable contributions and bequests in a manner consistent with donors' specific and general interests
- ◆ Maintain and enhance the educational, social, cultural, health and civic resources of the region through support of qualified nonprofit organizations
- ◆ Provide philanthropic leadership and help create and promote efforts among citizens to improve the quality of life in the communities served.



**NORTHEASTERN
REGIONAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

An Affiliate of the
New Mexico Community Foundation

P. O. Box 388
Las Vegas, NM 87701
www.newmexicogives.org