Leave your mark.
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With a single pen stroke, you can leave your mark on the community more significantly and powerfully than you ever imagined. Making a charitable gift through your will or trust is a simple, tax-friendly way to support the causes, charities or community you love. And it can keep giving back in your name forever.

Now THAT’S legacy.
More and more people just like you are leaving their mark by including a charitable gift in their will, trust or other estate plans. And it all starts with a fundamental question:

“Do I want to make a one-time gift, or do I want to make a gift that will last forever?”

**Once > Single bequest gift directly to a charity**
A single gift to a charity through your will or estate can provide immediate impact. Most charities will use your gift right away, while some may add it to their building or operations fund. Either way, your generosity will be acknowledged once, at the time your bequest is received.

**Forever > Endow a charitable fund in your name**
An endowed charitable fund keeps giving back forever through thoughtful grantmaking and investing. Your gift will grow steadily over time, and your favorite charities can plan for the future knowing they can depend on a steady stream of income from your generous gift.

At Akron Community Foundation, you can start an endowed charitable fund to benefit a particular cause, community, or one or more of your favorite organizations. We will make sure your charitable wishes are honored long after you are gone and your generosity is remembered year after year – forever – by the organizations you support.

Akron Community Foundation is the best place to create an endowed fund for your favorite nonprofits, even if they maintain independent endowments. With around $200 million in pooled assets, we receive top-tier investment management at reduced rates, leaving more of your fund to grow and give back. We are a nonprofit ourselves, and our mission is to serve you, the charitable people of our community.

See the different endowed funds you can choose from at [www.akroncf.org/FundTypes](http://www.akroncf.org/FundTypes).
Mary DiDonato has spent more than half a century caring for local cancer patients. A nurse of nearly 60 years, Mary retired – for a second time – in 2014 at the age of 83. Even today, Mary continues to help those struggling with cancer by volunteering and supporting agencies like Akron General’s McDowell Cancer Institute.

Through a gift in her will, Mary will continue to provide the same physical, mental and spiritual hope to those faced with a cancer diagnosis – not just once, but forever.

Her gift of retirement assets will fund the Mary DiDonato Fund. With it, Mary will ensure the long-term health of her favorite charities even after she is gone, including the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation; Catholic Community Service Center; St. Paul Catholic Parish; and a University of Akron nursing scholarship that bears her name. Each year, these organizations will get a grant made from the income of Mary’s fund, leaving the rest to grow in perpetuity.

“I’m not exactly wealthy, but I’m not hurting either,” said Mary. “My career has been good. I need to spread it around.”
An endowed charitable fund is a powerful tool, both for you and your favorite charities. This is true for two reasons:

1. Your gift will continue giving
2. Your fund will keep on growing

In fact, an endowed charitable fund will give considerably more to your favorite causes and charities than the total of your original bequest.

Take Akron auto dealer John A. McAlonan. In 1994, his estate left Akron Community Foundation what was then our largest gift to date, $4.7 million. That planned gift started the John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron Community Foundation.

Just 20 years later, Mr. McAlonan’s initial $4.7 million has resulted in $6.3 million in funding to his favorite causes, including the Akron Zoo, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, and the Summit County Historical Society. As significantly, the fund itself is now worth $11.7 million, well over twice its original value.

In other words, the John A. McAlonan Fund has already granted more than its original amount, and its assets are twice as big.

You may not have millions to leave behind, but Akron Community Foundation will apply the same careful investing and spending policy to a $50,000 fund as we do to a $5 million fund.

See how the power of endowment works at www.akroncf.org/PowerOfEndowment.
Marc and Sylvia Trundle have dedicated their careers to improving the community. Marc is a 33-year veteran of the Tallmadge Police Department. Sylvia, the Fairlawn Police Department’s first female patrol officer, continues to lead a ground-breaking career as a captain in the Akron Police Department.

And while they may have chosen their career in law enforcement for different reasons, the Akron residents both believe in the power of paying it forward, and they’re equipping others to do the same.

Marc and Sylvia are donating a percentage of their estate to start a scholarship fund at Akron Community Foundation. Through it, they will help local young people pursue a career in criminal justice at The University of Akron.

“We’re getting to that age, and with no children, we had to decide where our money would go,” Marc said. That led them to Akron Community Foundation. “With their ties to the community and history of helping people, we thought, ‘Who else?’”

Sylvia says their goals are twofold: to help hard-working students carry their torch of public service, and to encourage philanthropy. “If someone Googled us,” she says, “it wouldn’t hurt to see we were involved in the community, we loved our departments, we gave back. The old folks that donated the money? That’s what they were about.”
For many, loved ones are the first priority in estate planning, and understandably so. But, frequently, charitable giving through your estate lessens the tax burden on your heirs while establishing your legacy.

Consider these options to ensure you care for your family and friends in the most beneficial way:

1. **Earmark a set dollar amount** – say $50,000 – that you are comfortable using to start your endowed charitable fund.

2. **Dedicate a specific percentage of your estate** to start your fund, so you know that your family will receive the share you want them to have.

3. **Leave a residuary bequest** to start your fund. The residuary is what remains of your estate after other distributions have been made.

In most cases, it is best to donate your most highly taxable assets. Consider a retirement plan, like an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or pension. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value may be lost through estate and income taxes. But, if you use retirement assets to start your endowed charitable fund, not only is the full value of your gift transferred to your fund tax-free, your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction.

As a junior in the Jackson High School marching band, Jerry Wolf met a flashy young maestro who inspired him to turn his talent into a profession.

For 29 years, Jerry did just that, himself inspiring students in the Southeast, Waterloo and Mogadore school districts – first as a band director, then as a principal. “I believe I made a difference. In return, they kept me feeling young,” he says.

Still in his 50s, Jerry is young for a retiree. And although he has no children, Jerry realizes the importance of saving for future needs and providing for his loved ones.

He also wants to give back.

A financial advisor recommended Jerry reach out to a community foundation in his area, so he worked with Akron Community Foundation to start an endowed charitable fund. Upon his passing, Jerry’s traditional IRA will transfer 100 percent tax-free into his fund. He chose to donate the IRA in order to minimize tax consequences while providing a significant, perpetual source of inspiration for students in each of his three former districts. Ultimately, the fund will provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

“It’s paying back and paying forward,” Jerry says, “and my family will still be well taken care of.”
In 1992, the farm where former Granger resident Raymond Allard grew up became his family’s gift to the community. Today, the Medina County Park District maintains the 125-acre property called Allardale for the public’s appreciation. It offers visitors the shade of more than 100,000 trees, including spruce, oak and even cucumber varieties. One in particular, “Raymond’s Tree,” still bears the mark of its former resident, one of the third generation of Allards since 1877 to call the property home.

In 2006, Raymond left his mark on Allardale in an even more lasting way. He left nearly $1.2 million of his trust to the Allard Family Fund of Akron Community Foundation. In less than 10 years, the fund has already given nearly $1 million to Allardale and still has more than $500,000 in assets.

Barberton residents Rosalie and Cecil Smith had a heart for helping stray animals. When Cecil passed away in 2012, his bequest of $300,000 funded the Rosalie and Cecil Smith Fund of Akron Community Foundation. Through smart investing, the fund’s assets are roughly the same, even after generating $80,000 in grants to fund the humane spaying and neutering of feral animals – all in the Smiths’ name.

Steven Wise, their financial advisor, recommended the fund, saying, “The foundation has an excellent reputation for investment management and vetting organizations.”

In 1963, Jim Stewart founded Stewart Funeral Home, one of the first black-owned funeral homes in Akron. Now Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home, his business continues to faithfully serve the families of this community, “offering exceptional service without prejudice” as Jim intended.

In 2011, a gift from Jim’s estate created the Jim Stewart Scholarship Fund of Akron Community Foundation, which will award scholarships to African-American students pursuing a career in math, science or mortuary science.

Ellet native Betty Axline was a woman of modest means who worked as a secretary for companies like Goodyear, General Tire and Chemstrand/Monsanto. She loved her hometown of Akron, and every year she donated her last hour of pay to help local children through Akron Community Foundation’s Millennium Fund for Children.

In 2014, with a bequest in her will, Betty donated stock she had acquired over her 40-year career to start the Betty R. Axline Fund of Akron Community Foundation. Through it, Betty will support the physical, cultural, educational and civic well-being of Summit County residents now and forever.
Akron Community Foundation: Your charitable ally.

Akron Community Foundation embraces and enhances the work of charitable people who make a permanent commitment to the good of the community. We leverage our experience, skill and credibility in the community to safeguard and maximize your charitable dreams.

In 1955, a $1 million bequest from the estate of Edwin Shaw established the community foundation. Today, we are a philanthropic endowment of around $200 million with a growing family of approximately 500 funds started by people from all walks of life.

We are eager to talk with you (and your advisor, too) to help you leave your mark in a way that’s best for you. There’s never a charge to meet with us.

For your free consultation, call our vice president of development and donor engagement at 330-436-5610.