



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Bath Community Fund?

Established in 2014 by a group of committed Bath residents, Bath Community Fund is a permanent endowment dedicated to strengthening the Bath community for current and future generations by providing leadership, fostering collaboration and creating a legacy of charitable giving. The fund is committed to responding to community needs, helping the less fortunate, supporting local nonprofits, and reinforcing and preserving Bath's historical and environmental legacy. BCF is an affiliate fund of Akron Community Foundation, a philanthropic endowment of \$220 million.

Why was Bath Community Fund created?

BCF was established in June 2014 by a group of residents who wanted to find an enduring source of support for the community they live in and love. The decision to create the fund was influenced by a number of factors, including statewide changes in inheritance tax regulations. These changes eliminated a revenue stream – which sometimes totaled hundreds of thousands of dollars annually – that had historically been used to benefit the community, whether through the purchase of safety equipment or retiring bonds early. By establishing an endowment fund, the founders were able to create a consistent source of support – for the residents of the Bath community through the more than 60 nonprofits in Bath -- that will last forever.

Why does Bath need an endowment fund?

Bath Township is recognized for its commitment to natural resources; its rural, residential way of life; and its access to exceptional quality-of-life amenities. Yet for all its advantages, Bath also has unique needs and untapped civic and community potential, including the challenge of securing a lasting source of support to preserve Bath's history, ensure its environmental heritage, and support the 60-plus nonprofits in the community that make a difference in the lives of so many. An endowment fund will ensure our grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all future generations of Bath residents will benefit from and hopefully emulate the fund's legacy of giving back to this treasured community.

What is the “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign?

“For Bath, Forever” is a campaign to grow BCF to \$2.018 million in celebration of Bath's bicentennial year in 2018. Through the generosity of the community, BCF completed the first phase of its fundraising campaign just one year and one day after the fund was created, raising more than \$250,000 from the gifts of 85 founding donors. Gifts to the campaign have ranged from \$5 to \$50,000, and everyone can contribute.

What are the benefits of giving to a permanent endowment?

Gifts to a permanent endowment fund are invested and grown over time, which means a gift made today will continue to multiply for generations to come. As a permanent endowment, BCF limits its grantmaking to just 5 percent of the average value of assets each year, while the principal is preserved forever. This

ensures the endowment will continue to generate a permanent, predictable stream of income for the Bath community both now and in the future. Your gift to BCF today will still be benefiting residents and nonprofits 100 years from now, long after you're gone.

How are grants from Bath Community Fund determined, and what do they support?

Grants from BCF are awarded annually to qualified tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that enhance the cultural, educational, health and civic well-being of the Bath community. That includes, but is not limited to, the more than 60 nonprofits located in Bath, ranging from churches, scout troops, and neighborhood associations to civic, business, and sports organizations. Grants are determined by a committee composed of BCF advisory board members and community volunteers. As the size of the endowment grows, so does the size of the grants it awards. With an endowment of \$2.018 million, BCF will be able to grant at least \$100,000 back into the community every year forever.

What kinds of gifts can I make to support the “For Bath, Forever” campaign?

As a fund of Akron Community Foundation, BCF can accept a wide variety of gifts, from simple to complex, including cash, appreciated stock, real estate, life insurance, closely held stock and retirement assets. Or, you can choose to support the campaign through a pledge that you fulfill over a pre-determined period of time. Many people also find that they can make a much more significant contribution than they ever thought possible through a planned gift, such as a bequest.

How can I support the “For Bath, Forever” campaign in a more enduring way?

Through Akron Community Foundation, you can start a charitable fund in your name, or in that of your family or company, that will support BCF forever. Each year, your fund will make distributions in your name to BCF, increasing the fund's grantmaking to programs that preserve Bath's historical and environmental legacy, meet emerging community needs, and more. This is a wonderful way to create your own legacy in Bath that will live on forever – both through your charitable fund and BCF.

What are the tax benefits of my gift?

Gifts to BCF are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Gifts of cash may be deducted for income tax purposes up to 60 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income, while gifts of stock can be deducted up to 30 percent of the donor's AGI. Gifts of appreciated stock can be particularly advantageous, as you receive a double benefit: You get an immediate charitable deduction for the fair market value of the donated securities, and you also are exempt from any capital gains tax on the appreciation. Be sure to consult with your professional advisors to determine the best type of gift for your situation. A representative from BCF would be happy to meet with you and your advisors to discuss your options.

Do I receive any other benefits for contributing?

As a contributor to the “For Bath, Forever” endowment campaign, you can choose to be publicly recognized on our Gift Pyramid, which will be displayed at community events, in our publications, and on our website. Alternatively, you can also choose to give anonymously. In either case, you will be part of a communitywide legacy that will live on long after all of us are gone.

How can I learn more?

You can read about the history of BCF, view biographies of our advisory board members, see a full list of recent grants, and check out our publications at www.BathCommunityFund.org. You can also sign up for our e-news to receive future updates from Bath Community Fund at www.akroncf.org/BCFnews.