

# Grant County Community Foundation Topics

---

Flexibility is a key ingredient for a community foundation. As we've discussed with other articles about the types of funds that can be established in a community foundation, the ability tailor a gift to meet the donors wishes is not only possible, it is a fundamental part of our organization.

One of the most flexible types of funds is the **Donor Advised Fund**. With this kind of fund, the donor has the option of naming the fund, even as a family fund. Often, you hear about family philanthropic foundations that really require millions to even get started. Not so with a donor advised fund in the Grant County Community Foundation. They can be started with a modest initial gift and GCCF allows the donor up to 5 years to accumulate \$10,000 for the fund to continue as an endowed fund. Donations can be made at any time and in any amount during that 5 year period, and in fact additional gifts can be made to the fund for many years thereafter.

Why is a Donor Advised Fund an attractive option?

- The donor retains a lifetime privilege to make recommendations to the foundation about what charitable organizations should receive the grants from the fund each year, and they can be different each year. These could vary widely from a grant to the donor's church to the local food cupboard to the high school musical, etc.
- The donor may also name up to 2 succeeding generations to make grant recommendations to the Foundation. This is a wonderful way to teach children and grandchildren about the joy of giving back.
- Donors can make gifts to their fund when they have the means (for example, during peak working years or during years when crop incomes are higher) and make grants to their favorite charities for many, many years.
- In addition to cash, other types of assets can be donated into a Donor Advised Fund. Assets such as minerals, real estate, life insurance, stocks & bonds are all acceptable gifts.
- Donor Advised Funds can also receive gifts through a will, trust or estate documents, and can also be created with an estate gift.
- It is a generous and lasting legacy to leave to your community.

As with other funds in the GCCF, once an endowed donor advised fund reaches \$10,000, grants are made from the interest earned on the fund each year. Historically, earnings have averaged about 8% from which 2% is retained for fund growth, a 1% administration fees and a .35% investment fee is paid, leaving 4%-5% available for granting. Of course, we know that historical

averages do not necessarily predict the future and our recent market history has been a stark reminder of that. Still, we anticipate that over the long term, investment earnings will reflect historical averages.

At the end of the donor's advisory period (donor's life + 2 generations) or if the fund does not reach the minimum level of \$10,000, the fund will be converted at the discretion of the Foundation to an Unrestricted Fund or a Field of Interest Fund and grants will be directed to areas that best represent the original intent of the donor.

As you can see, Donor Advised Funds allow the donor the most flexibility to support whatever their charitable interests are with the grant funds available each year. If this seems like a fund option that appeals to you or someone you know, I hope you will contact me or one of our directors to see about getting one established. Contact information is as follows:

Grant County Community Foundation

P. O. Box 65

Ulysses, Kansas 67880

620-356-4223 (GCCF)

Email: [grantccf@gmail.com](mailto:grantccf@gmail.com)

Website: [www.grantccf.org](http://www.grantccf.org)

Ken Keusler

Phone #620-356-2592

Cell Phone # 620-575-5598