



Who We Are and What We Do

The Community Foundation for Monterey County

However you define a community foundation, from a donor's perspective, it's important to remember that a community foundation is a living, breathing entity. By commingling many different funds for a variety of needs, putting them under the governance of respected, volunteer community leaders, and using a prudent amount for grants to local agencies, a community foundation can change with the times. Just as important, a community foundation can protect a donor's wishes from becoming obsolete by redirecting the use of a gift to the closest related use.

Since the charitable landscape changes daily, you cannot do this kind of work without an experienced board that is skilled in finance and investments, law and estate planning, health issues, social and community service needs, environmental concerns, public and private education administration, and the cultural and artistic world. In the case of the Community Foundation for Monterey County, our Board members bring a wide variety of professional skills, community knowledge and experience to the Foundation. They serve for a maximum of two terms of three years each.

To keep up with the panoply of needs in the nonprofit sector, a community foundation also needs a paid professional staff. Their job is to impartially evaluate, along with the Board members, the strengths and weaknesses of grant proposals, and to look for ways to improve the long-range health of agencies that range from very young start-ups to very large, established programs.

Whether you are an individual donor, a financial advisor, a corporate giving officer, a private foundation trustee, or a committee member in a service club, we can help you achieve your vision and also give you an unbiased, inside look at nearly every one of the hundreds of public benefit, non-profit organizations working in Monterey County. The purpose of this material is to show you how to use this knowledge base and these years of experience to help you fulfill your goals in giving back to this community. In the process, we feel confident that you will be richly rewarded and enjoy helping others lead a richer, fuller life.