

## Growing a better Miami County with Agency Funds

Over the past 14 years, the Miami County Community Foundation has worked hard to establish a reputation of effectiveness; not only for meeting money with need, but for being a convener in our community as well as a catalyst for positive change. One of the ways we have worked effectively in Miami County is through our Agency Funds.

Agency Funds are those permanently endowed funds that benefit charitable or not-for-profit organizations, service clubs, and churches. Because these funds are permanently endowed, the principal of the fund will continue to generate interest for the benefit of these organizations forever. Currently our Community Foundation has 15 Agency Funds with such organizations as Miami County United Way, the Grissom Air Museum, Circus City Festival, the Miami County Historical Society, Main Street United Methodist Church, and Miami County YMCA—to name a few.

Twice a year, these agencies receive a check from the income on their fund. Some of the funds have been created to support the operating expenses of the organizations. Others created the fund to finance a scholarship which they distribute annually. Funds can be created to benefit any charitable service organization, church, school, sorority or club—in any way that best serves that agency's mission, or the community at large.

As a fund affiliate of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation Inc., our Community Foundation sends local representatives to serve on the Finance Committee, which carefully monitors our investments. Fund Evaluation Group serves as our investment advisor, and reports regularly to the finance committee.

By pooling our assets together a greater return is realized for the individual agencies. Our funds are invested with the goal of returning 7 percent annually. We work on a 12 quarter rolling market average, distributing up to 4 and a half percent to the agencies each year. As a not-for-profit organization our self, we collect a modest 1% administrative fee from the earnings—which merely covers our expenses in maintaining and growing the fund, as well as serving the donor.

"Main Street United Methodist Church is privileged to have several funds which support specialized ministries of the congregation. However, the funds we have with the Miami County Community Foundation have consistently performed as well or better than most of our other designated funds, and they provide the added benefit of helping our community—part of the mission of our congregation and the reason we invested ourselves with the Community Foundation in the beginning," explained Pastor Steve Ailes of the church.

In addition to providing investment services, we provide thorough financial reports and avail ourselves to these agencies should they have any questions, or have a desire to have us come make a presentation to their group. We are also happy to offer fundraising advice for those organizations seeking to raise funds for their operations, a capital campaign, or for their endowment with us. With training from the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, we can provide information and plans that have been proven effective nationwide in the field of fundraising.



MIAMI COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
A FUND AFFILIATE OF NICF

WHERE GIVING GROWS

## Our Donors' Stories

"The Community Foundation is an indispensable resource for our museum," said Grissom Air Museum Executive Director, Andy Cougill. "Not only do they offer opportunities through agency funds and grants, they also carry a wealth of professional fundraising knowledge. With the many obstacles facing small museums, it's a relief to know the Community Foundation is there to offer professional support and advice."

If your church, service club, or charitable organization is interested in learning more about how the Community Foundation can help with their sustainability, give me a call. We'd be happy to make a presentation to the group about the ways the Community Foundation can support their agenda. Call 765-475-2859, to learn more.