



Making it Easy to Give

OUR NAMES ARE
David & Alice Shearer

OUR COMMUNITY
Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

OUR PASSIONS
Grandchildren, sustaining local agriculture, public radio, education

David and Alice Shearer made several gifts of real estate over the past few years. After realizing that they could use their real estate investments to make a charitable contribution, they worked with the Community Foundation's expert staff to make gifts of real estate, then advise the Foundation as to how the proceeds might best benefit the community.

"Our tax advisor pointed out the advantage of using real estate to make a charitable contribution. We found the Community Foundation to be very helpful and knowledgeable in this process, making it a convenient way for us to give."

– David Shearer

Donor Advised Funds

Donor Advised Funds allow donors to recommend grants to charitable organizations of their choice while achieving maximum tax benefits. They also provide an efficient alternative to a private foundation.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about Donor Advised Funds.

Q. How do I establish a Donor Advised Fund?

A. The Foundation's philanthropic services team works with donors and/or their financial advisors to establish the fund. Once the details have been discussed, a fund agreement letter is drafted and signed, then assets may be transferred to establish the fund.

Q. Is there a required minimum balance?

A. The Community Foundation requires a \$10,000 minimum balance. That balance may be reached over several years with a fundraising/donation plan approved by the Foundation. Amounts in excess of that minimum each year (including earnings from the fund's investment) are available for recommended distribution.

Q. How are the funds invested?

A. Foundation funds are professionally invested under the supervision of community volunteers with expertise in investment management. Funds are pooled and invested with other assets of the Foundation for fuller diversification, with each fund accruing its own share of the earnings. Each fund is accounted for separately. Donors may choose from a selection of portfolios and will receive quarterly financial statements.

Q. What are the administrative fees and expenses?

A. The fee for Donor Advised Funds is currently 1.25% annually applied to the fund's average fair market value, with a minimum annual fee of \$125, in addition to the expenses of the fund's investment.

Q. How do I recommend grants?

A. Fund advisors may recommend grants to public charities in amounts of \$100 or more. Grants may be recommended at any time from principal or earnings above the \$10,000 fund minimum. Recommendations will be followed as long as they comply with current IRS guidelines. See the Advised Fund Guidelines for more information.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

P. O. Box 15769
Springfield, MA 01115-5769
Telephone: 413-732-2858
Fax: 413-733-8565

communityfoundation.org