

Operating Endowments Do Make A Difference!

By Janet Haley, Executive Director



Like most nonprofits, the Hendricks County Community Foundation has an Annual Support campaign each year to help cover the costs required to maintain our office, staff and continue to tell the wonderful stories of our thoughtful donors and worthy grant recipients.

Because our Operating Endowment does not currently cover all of our operating expenses, we depend on generous donations each year from individuals and businesses. An Annual Support gift to the Foundation tells us the donor believes in what we are accomplishing and that the donor wants to help us continue meeting the needs of our community through grants to deserving nonprofits.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Community Foundation or your favorite nonprofit organization didn't have to worry about an Annual Support campaign each year allowing them to focus solely on programming and furthering their mission? Operating Endowments are the key to this goal. They make funding available for a particular organization FOREVER. Most endowment funds have an annual spending policy—usually 5%—which allows the fund to make an annual grant to the organization's operating budget. It can take many years to grow an Operating Endowment fund to reach the point that it is funding 100% of the activities of the nonprofit organization. However, a well funded Operating Endowment is vital to the health of any nonprofit organization.

Talk to the nonprofit organizations that you support and find out if they have an Operating Endowment fund. If they do not, the Community Foundation is the perfect place to establish such a fund. If an Operating Endowment fund has been established, then in the future you could make a gift to their annual support campaign and a gift to their Operating Endowment fund. This would give you the comfort of knowing that someday, the organization will be able to focus solely on their mission, rather than being distracted every year soliciting annual support.

Your Hendricks County Community Foundation established an Operating Endowment fund several years ago, but we have a long way to go before the fund is at a level that it will support 100% of our operations. For those of you that are long-time supporters of the Community Foundation, we ask that you would consider making an annual gift to our Operating Endowment fund in partnership with your annual support contribution. If you have considered leaving a bequest to the Community Foundation in your will, or some other type of planned gift, please consider directing a portion of this to the Operating Endowment fund. By funding the Operating Endowment fund, the Community Foundation staff and Board will be able to focus 100% of their time on making grants to the community and helping other local nonprofit organizations fulfill their missions.

For those individuals and businesses in the community that have been long-time contributors to the Community Foundation, we say THANK YOU! Because you gave, we have been able to accomplish our

work in the community. If you would like to learn more about an Operating Endowment fund for your favorite charity please contact me, Janet Haley at 317.718.1200 or janet@hendrickscountycf.org, to see how the Hendricks County Community Foundation can work with you to fulfill your charitable dreams!