



SWEET HOME

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LEAVE A LOCAL
LEGACY

Your guide to enhancing our community's future.



Who We Are

The Sweet Home Community Foundation (SHCF) is a 501 C (3) nonprofit organization that administers charitable funds received through gifts and bequests from individuals, businesses and other organizations. SHCF was formed in 1997 and plays an active role in securing Sweet Home's future. SHCF makes grants and other distributions to qualified organizations in the community. In addition, SHCF assists local ad hoc groups with fundraising and project administration for worthy endeavors.

SHCF's mission is to *"Improve the Quality life in the Sweet Home Community."* A primary part of this mission is to build and maintain a long term endowment fund that will benefit the community in future years. Donors to SHCF have flexibility to donate any amount to assist in our overall mission or to create named permanent endowment funds directed towards specific areas of community philanthropy. In short, we believe you should; ***"Give Where You Live!"***

SHCF is governed by a ten member volunteer board of directors. The board represents a wide cross-section of demonstrated leadership in community affairs and interests. A primary responsibility of the board of directors is to assure that each fund is managed in an efficient and thoughtful way.

As you read this document, we hope you will find that, whether making a onetime gift or creating a Permanent Endowment Fund with SHCF, you are leaving a positive mark on the Sweet Home Community.

Why Give Through SHCF?

Permanence:

You can rest easy with the knowledge that your permanent endowment fund will be managed in perpetuity and that the gift always will serve its purpose. Potential recipients of endowment funds are investigated and grants are monitored by SHCF. Should, in the future, the original intended purpose of a gift become unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment or inconsistent with changing charitable and social needs, the board can apply the fund to purposes which closely parallel those the donor has specified.

**Recognition:**

By establishing a named, permanent fund with SHCF, a donor can give his or her family name a place in the philanthropic history of our Sweet Home Community. The fund is listed in the SHCF annual report and all grants made from the fund are identified as coming from the donor's named fund.

Flexibility:

Recognizing that community needs are certain to change, many donors allow the SHCF grants program to select the charitable causes and institutions to be assisted. A donor can, however, specify the particular area of community life to which his or her fund may be applied, name the specific agencies to which grants shall be given, and even advise SHCF as to what charitable organizations should receive grants.

Efficient Financial Management:

SHCF procedures assure that investment decisions are prudent. The funds are professionally managed through services provided by either the Oregon Community Foundation or another financial institution selected by the board of directors.

Tax Benefits:

Donors to SHCF are eligible to receive the maximum allowable income tax advantage of giving to a public charity.

Types of Funds:

General Discretionary Fund:

You may choose to make a gift or bequest for the broad charitable purposes of the Foundation as a whole. SHCF makes grants from these funds to local organizations providing for our community in the areas of; Children and Families; Livability; Arts and Culture and Education. We call these focused areas our "Community Building Blocks."

Field-of-Interest Fund:

You may direct your gift or bequest towards supporting any of our Community Building Block categories.

Donor Advised Fund:

On donations of at least \$5000, a provision may be added for SHCF to seek advice from the donor, or persons named by the donor, on distributions made from the fund. While the advice cannot be binding on SHCF, it is given full and careful attention.



Donor Designated Fund:

On donations of at least \$5000, a provision may be added to name one or more charitable organization(s) to be assisted by the fund. Should the designated charitable organization(s) cease to exist or the purpose it served becomes obsolete, SHCF has the responsibility and authority to re-direct the distributions to another similar charitable purpose.

Named Permanent Endowment Fund:

“Leave a Local Legacy” with a Named Permanent Endowment Fund. These funds assure that future generations will know of an individual’s or a family’s generosity and foresight for our community’s future. A \$20,000 minimum threshold is required to establish this fund but SHCF assists by allowing up to five years to fully establish the endowment. When a donor specifies the desire to establish a permanent endowment, SHCF will apply designated contributions to fund the future endowment. Once the minimum threshold is reached, the endowment will be established.

Agency Endowment Fund:

A charitable organization may transfer all or part of its endowment fund to SHCF to participate in SHCF’s larger investment program.

Ways to Establish a Fund:

Cash Gifts:

Cash gifts may be in the form of currency, check or money order. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Sweet Home Community Foundation.*

Appreciated Property:

Gifts of appreciated securities or real estate may allow a donor to make a substantial contribution and also gain important tax advantages. Except in limited situations, the donor may incur no capital gain on gifts or appreciated property.*

Life Insurance:

A donor who irrevocably transfers life insurance to SHCF can claim an income tax deduction for the policy's cost basis or an amount roughly equal to cash surrender value, whichever is less. *

Bequests:

A donor may create or add to a permanent endowment fund through a bequest in a will or trust. SHCF and the donor's fund can be named as the residuary beneficiary of a donor's estate, as the recipient of the assets of a charitable remainder trust. Bequests are normally deductible for federal estate and Oregon inheritance tax purposes.*

**Private Foundation:**

Private foundations can transfer their assets to SHCF to establish a donor's advised fund or supporting organization. In either case, the private foundation's name and philanthropic goals can be retained. No tax or penalty is assessed on such transfers.*

**SHCF urges you to consult a personal financial advisor, accountant or attorney who is knowledgeable about estate planning and can advise you how your gift to Sweet Home Community Foundation can best meet your individual needs, goals and objectives.*

SHCF Money Management:

Investment Policy

SHCF recognizes that permanent endowment funds exist to provide a perpetual resource for charitable purposes and that investment decisions, on balance, should be less speculative than those for personal investment. Its money management agreement with the financial institution follows a total return strategy with the intent of maximizing the long-term total return of the entire portfolio both from market value increases (realized and unrealized gains) and from current yield (interest and dividends).

Grant Distribution Policy

A grant percentage payout rate for permanent funds is determined from time to time based upon the expected total return on investment of those funds. Any net increase beyond that distribution accrues to the principal of the fund. New permanent endowment funds are invested for a minimum of twelve months before inclusion in the valuation for distribution.

Administrative Charges

SHCF assesses each permanent fund a nominal fee to defray a portion of administrative and investment expenses and governmental fees. However, since SHCF has no paid staff, its administrative operating expenses are minimal.