

About the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF)

In late 2016, several individuals conceived the foundation as a catalyst for raising funds to support human needs and exceptional ideas yet to be determined. In 2017 a working group eventually proposed the TCF as an affiliated fund of the East Tennessee Foundation (ETF). The TCF officially launched in November 2017 with nine founding donors.

The Mission Statement of TCF

"TCF exists to enrich the lives of our residents and the greater community by evaluating and addressing community issues, connecting generosity to programs and projects, and nurturing a culture of charitable giving."

The Guiding Principles of TCF

- Identify and evaluate community needs through studies, focus groups, networking with other charitable groups, and open forums.
- Coordinate with other charitable organizations in the community to achieve maximum impact, including providing supplementary funding if warranted.
- Seek to meet unique and currently unmet human needs in the community where funding support can make a difference.
- Create opportunities for charitable giving to provide general support for TCF initiatives as well as for new projects of specific interest to donors.

TCF is a Community Fund affiliated with the East Tennessee Foundation (ETF), and as such has no connection to any organization within Tellico Village. TCF is under the administration of ETF. An Advisory Board currently consisting of 9 members of the Tellico Village community provides the link between the community and ETF, identifying needs, raising funds, and advising ETF on grants. ETF provides a variety of high-level functional and fiduciary services important to the management of the Fund.

TCF has made prior grants to the following organizations:

- Smoky Mountain Service Dogs
- Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department
- Tennessee Bluebird Society
- Tellico Village Library
- Tellico Village Singers
- Lenoir City Family Resource Center
- Align9

TCF has identified the following high impact focus areas for future grantmaking. These areas were identified by a series of studies and assessments with a focus on unmet needs.

- Community Enrichment
- Early Childhood Literacy
- Opioid Crisis
- Support for Seniors

One of the primary benefits of our affiliation with the East Tennessee Foundation is the ability to gain access to research and a program evaluation team. The ETF staff has expertise in the analyses of requests to identify the most promising programs and projects. They search within communities, regionally, statewide, and nationally for innovative approaches to community

problems and connect organizations that are working on common problems to maximize their effectiveness. This way, donors are assured that their charitable dollars are “gifted” to the best organizations and most worthwhile causes.

Future TCF grants will use a structured grant solicitation, application, review, and award process administered by the East Tennessee Foundation with guidance from the TCF Advisory Board. The TCF Advisory Board identifies and evaluates local community needs through studies, focus groups, networking with other charitable groups, and open forums. In addition, TCF coordinates with other charitable organizations in the community to ensure maximum impact is achieved. TCF reviews and evaluates grant proposals, making a recommendation of the grants to be awarded.

The East Tennessee Foundation is a strong financial partner for the TCF. All 450+ funds of East Tennessee Foundation (ETF), are maintained and reported as separate accounts, but are pooled in commingled funds for investment purposes. East Tennessee Foundation has current assets exceeding \$440,000,000 (as of 12-31-2017).

The ETF Investment Committee sets investment policy and strategy, utilizing volunteer managers and monitoring investment performance against industry standards. ETF invests its assets for a total return. It then calculates an annual charitable spending budget for each fund based on a percentage (currently 4.5%) of the average principal fund balance over the past 12 quarters. Since inception of the commingled fund (1987), the Foundation has earned an average annual total return net of investment management fees of 7.99% (as of 12-31-2017).

Options for making a donation to TCF are Cash, checks, various forms of stock, life insurance benefits, etc. (see ["Guide to Charitable Giving"](#)). ETF will assist TCF and its prospective donor(s) in evaluating any asset of value to determine what is the best philanthropic strategy for deployment. Donations can be made on line at: [TCF On-Line Donations](#)

There is a natural concern that TCF will draw charitable giving away from other groups, so be assured TCF does not intend to compete with existing charitable organizations that prospective donors support. We encourage charitable giving and recognize that donors have many causes to which they donate.

TCF presents another option for donors who are interested in supporting the longer-term support for charitable needs of a major nature that are not being addressed by other organizations. In addition, by making a donation that will partially be committed to an endowment, the TCF will build a legacy for the future. This is not something that most local charities can provide.

TCF provides an organized way for donors to combine their contributions with others in support of Loudon and Monroe County organizations. The TCF is one way to channel assets that will make an impact today, tomorrow, and in the future. A community foundation is structured to keep abreast of changing times, so that your donation will support your community forever, and will always be used meaningfully.

TCF's ability to Keep Pace with Changing Times ensures your donation will not become irrelevant or useless over time, as community needs change. Our local understanding allows us to be nimble in directing attention to evolving needs. A community foundation is structured to keep abreast of changing times, so that your donation will support your community forever, and will always be used meaningfully.

TCF is different from a charity such as United Way in that TCF will maintain an endowment as well as a grantmaking fund. The United Way makes grants from donations received in a given cycle. Our grantmaking fund will be used to make grants to organizations based on a grant application process and consistent with the TCF focus areas. In this manner, TCF has some similarities to the United Way. The endowment will allow funds to grow and be available for future needs. The United Way does not have endowed funds.

One might ask, why not just open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to utilize for grantmaking instead of a donation to TCF?

An ETF DAF requires a minimum contribution to open of \$10,000. This may not fit within a donor's current giving opportunities. Most other DAFs have a similar if not higher minimum contribution/balance.

A DAF does not afford the opportunity for the donor to partner their funds with other TCF donors – the TCF Fund allows donors from all levels/backgrounds/opportunities to partner their funds together in support of the legacy as well as current projects.

Once a DAF is established, the donor must be aware of the funding opportunity as well as make a recommendation to award a grant from that DAF for that particular opportunity. By contributing to TCF, the TCF Advisory Board remains continually abreast of the focus areas and projects which are most important for TCF funding support.

Dependent upon where the DAF is housed, the due diligence (fiduciary, legal, capacity, sustainability, and programmatic) may or may not be as extensive as is accomplished by ETF and TCF.