



Overview of The Community Foundation's History

Created by a group of civic leaders in 1991, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee was founded on the belief that a foundation for the community could play a vital role in identifying and supporting critical needs. The Community Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity serving the 40 counties of Middle Tennessee and three counties in Southern Kentucky.

Our founders had seen the good community foundations were accomplishing around the country and believed our community would benefit from a new and different approach to charitable giving. That approach, pioneered in 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio, by the first community foundation ever established, would focus on building and holding a permanent and growing endowment dedicated specifically to our community's changing needs and opportunities. This way, a portion of wealth created by a community can accrue to its benefit — ensuring a permanent source of charitable resources.

Over the years, thousands of individuals, families and companies have partnered with us to find ways to contribute and achieve their personal philanthropic goals. Today, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee oversees a pool of charitable resources totaling more than \$400 million. We are made up of more than 1050 active charitable funds serving the broadest range of needs. Our funds represent hundreds of stories of passionate people with big hearts and bold ideas. They are a testament to the power of philanthropy — of people creating, contributing to, and sustaining long-term solutions to community needs, for a better today and tomorrow.

The generosity of our donors, who trust in our philanthropic leadership to invest funds wisely for the benefit of our region, has made possible The Community Foundation's grantmaking of \$725 million to community programs and institutions over our 24-year history.

As we have fulfilled the traditional role of a community foundation to provide philanthropic services to enhance our service area, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee has also expanded to act as a catalyst and convener, identifying unmet needs in our region and marshaling resources to create solutions.

We not only help donors accomplish their charitable goals and provide funding to hundreds of local nonprofits, we also craft and support entrepreneurial ideas for lasting solutions to critical needs.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee believes the charitable dreams we each have can benefit us all. We are focused on donor service first and foremost — giving donors the flexibility to choose the areas of their philanthropic passion and making their charitable dreams a reality. It's always been our goal to put the joy in giving by making it comfortable, convenient and cost-effective.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FIRST 24 YEARS July 1991 — July 2014

During our first 24 years*,
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee ...

- Brought in **\$928 million** in charitable contributions
- Distributed grants of **\$725 million**
- Awarded **\$14,552,170** in scholarships
- Established **1050+** total charitable funds

*For updated statistics, please refer to www.CFMT.org.

Updated through January 2015