A Powerful, Personal Approach to Charitable Giving
Making a difference today

Community Foundation clients Glenys and her late husband, Michael, felt responsible for planning the distribution of their assets to benefit their community for generations to come.

“One of the first things that I liked about the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo is the fact that we could set up our own foundation within the Foundation and support the charities that we were most interested in,” said Glenys. “The Community Foundation exposes clients to new ideas, new issues and new possibilities.”
Planning for legacy giving

Most people want to leave a legacy, some proof that their life made a difference. **Legacy Funds** are ideal for families and individuals who want to support organizations, issues and communities that meant the most to them during their lifetime.

At the Community Foundation, we work with advisors and their clients to ensure their wishes are documented and carried out as intended, in their names, forever. Our legacy funds provide you with the flexibility and simplicity to include your fund as a beneficiary of your Will, trust or retirement assets.

**Legacy Fund clients may choose one or a combination of options.**

**DESIGNATED**
Clients can identify one or many organizations they want to support forever.

**FIELD OF INTEREST**
Designed for clients who wish to support particular issues or areas of need as they change over time (e.g. education, health care, performing arts or scholarships).

**CHANGING NEEDS**
Clients can choose to establish endowed funds in their name that address the changing needs of our community over time.

*If the causes you care about change during your lifetime, we can easily make updates to your legacy plans at the Community Foundation.*

A CENTURY OF CHANGING NEEDS IMPACT

In 1919, George F. Rand Sr. asked his attorney, Edward H. Letchworth, to visit the first community foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. After that trip, George Sr. recognized the unique role a community foundation could play to enable families, including his own, to give back for generations to come.

Upon his passing, the Community Foundation was created when his family set up the first endowment to address the changing needs in Western New York.

In 2020, the COVID-19 health crisis created a dramatic shift in our community. The changing needs dollars allowed the Community Foundation to take a leadership role in creating the WNY COVID-19 Community Response Fund, with dozens of philanthropic partners, and rapidly deploy resources to support front line responders.

CARRYING ON A FAMILY LEGACY

Dr. Danis Gehl grew up the oldest of six children in the civil rights era. She remembers her parents working hard and stressing the importance of education. Following in their footsteps, Dr. Gehl has worked tirelessly in adult education, housing and neighborhood development throughout her storied career, and turned to the Community Foundation when it was time to plan her charitable legacy. She established the Rosa L. and LaMarr Norman, Sr. Education Fund, named after her parents, and takes comfort in knowing that the endowed fund will continue to support the causes that were important to her parents – and which remain important to her – today, tomorrow and forever.
Mission
Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Western New York.

Vision
A vibrant and inclusive Greater Buffalo region with opportunity for all.