Ashland County Community Foundation supports and complements the work of United Way and other local charities.

Only a community foundation can, through the use of endowment, truly serve any and all of the long-term philanthropic interests of local charitably-minded individuals.

Want to establish a scholarship for worthy students pursuing any 2-year or 4-year degree at any accredited institution of higher learning? The Ashland County Community Foundation can help you accomplish that.

Want to provide a reliable annual revenue stream to any qualified charity about which you care? ACCF is the place to make that happen.

Want to create one fund that can serve multiple fields of interest? Whether it's Health and Wellness, Social Services, Education, Environmental, Arts and Culture or Community Progress, ACCF is the solution to this type of charitable management.

In other words, with the establishment of a named permanent endowment fund at the Ashland County Community Foundation, you could provide annual support, forever, for your church, your university, United Way, Associated Charities, your local healthcare provider, a local youth sports team, the Ashland Symphony Orchestra, your school, a park or playground, an animal sanctuary, a museum or whatever you can imagine.

If an immediate gift of cash is not practical, ACCF has the capability to receive stock, even real estate, as possible charitable gifts, often resulting in significant tax savings. Of course, perhaps one of the easiest methods of supporting charitable organizations about which you care, is through proper estate planning, a gift that costs you nothing now. ACCF works closely with many local attorneys, accountants and financial advisors, who are quite familiar with guiding you through this process.

It's important to understand that community foundations are not end users, but rather, conservators of community capital. As a service to other non-profits, community foundations also frequently hold their designated endowment funds. ACCF holds over 30 such funds for Ashland County agencies.

Community foundations support and complement the work of United Way and other charities. Most charities depend upon regular donations from annual campaigns to fund operations. Community foundations do not, typically, seek annual gifts that might compete or conflict with these campaigns.
Community foundations, like ACCF, represent the community's "charitable savings account" that can provide lasting support for the entire non-profit sector. They are not tied to a specific program or field of interest, but rather serve the entire community.

Over its brief 21-year history, ACCF has engaged more than 6,400 donors that have produced an asset base in excess of $33 million, from which invested proceeds have returned over $10 million to Ashland County!

Your community foundation currently administers 361 named funds, created specifically to support the organizations and causes about which you care the most.

Scholarships have been provided to 1,911 students totaling $1,818,934 making the dream of higher education possible for area youth. Through donor-advised and donor-designated funds, 134 selected charities have received distributions totaling $3,347,523. Additionally, ACCF's partner agencies have received $1,393,651 in distributions.

ACCF offers several grant programs, as well. The Women's Fund, in its 12-year history, has awarded 43 grants, totaling $80,990 that has benefited more than 5,500 Ashland County women and children. Teacher Mini-Grants, including ARTSDREAM, are awarded to Ashland County public and private school teachers in grades K-12 each November. To date, $86,301 spread over 176 mini-grants, has been awarded.

ACCF's Community Grants program has provided much-needed funding to area non-profit organizations with 431 grants having been made, totaling $2,744,775. In its inaugural year, our IMPACT Youth Council awarded 9 grants funding youth-oriented projects and initiatives, totaling $7,610. Additionally, a family foundation, operating as an ACCF Supporting Organization, has impacted our area with $1,250,300 in grantmaking.

Details of ACCF charitable gifting options, its programs and services can be found at www.accommunityfoundation.org, by calling (419) 281-4733 or by stopping in the office at 300 College Avenue, Ashland, to see Executive Director Jim Cutright.