



Building a Lasting Structure to Benefit Our Community

This article appeared in The State Journal-Register on February 24, 2019.

When Anne Morgan learned of the Community Foundation, she immediately recognized the value it could hold.

“I know when I first heard of the organization and figured out what they did, one of the things I thought was a real service to the community was taking onboard so many charitable pots of money that had been created out in the community,” she said.

In serving on various boards, combined with her time in the community, she had seen where sums of money were set up – either for a new cause or in honor of a student killed in a tragic accident – but through time its purpose started to fade. Either the organization in charge didn’t know exactly how to administer the funds or perhaps the meaning started to change because of second- or third-hand accounts.

“Or maybe an award is not given every year because people don’t remember every year,” Anne said. “I think more and more in the broader community, if you want to set up a special fund, the Community Foundation is the place for it. They have a template for managing funds and making grants – I just think that’s a huge service to the community that helps donors have an impact easily.”

Anne and her husband Saul Morse, who served as chairperson on the Community Foundation board of directors from 2012-13, saw up close the impact that could be made. That structure and purposefulness was part of the reason they established the Morse/Morgan Family Fund, a donor-advised fund. It allows them to contribute to programs they support on an annual basis while also opening the door to new opportunities.

That can be through Community Grants – a grant program where nonprofits can apply for any pressing need. Donor-advised funds can review the wide-ranging requests – as do grant committees that serve a variety of focus areas. Saul also chaired Access to Recreation, which supports accessible recreation, and Anne was the first chairperson of the Women for Women Grant Committee, which makes grants to programs serving women and children.

“The donor-advised fund allows you to find a way to help build the community,” Saul said. “It’s a way of both giving back while recognizing your roots, if you will.

“I would say, whether you have a small donation or you get to the point where you’re able to have a donor-advised fund, it’s a wonderful way to have purposeful, channeled philanthropy. For me, it’s important to give back because we all have gotten something out of this community.”

Not only does their fund organize the charitable giving for the two of them, but they appreciate the value of having resources for a community in an organized manner that will be administered thoughtfully.

“With the Community Foundation, here is a place where you can care for those funds,” Anne said. “You can invest that money. It has some potential to grow, other places it has no potential to grow at all.”

“It’s like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval,” Saul added. “If you see it is going through the Community Foundation, it’s legit. You know your contribution and support will be administered in a rational and reasonable way. It won’t be forgotten or wasted or used for a different reason than what it was originally given for.”

To learn more about donor-advised funds, please contact the Community Foundation at 217.789.4431 or visit us at CFL.org.