

Memorial Fund Policy

The Hendricks County Community Foundation (HCCF) is honored to work with individuals and families who wish to remember loved ones through charitable giving. Memorial gifts provide a meaningful and lasting way to celebrate a life while supporting causes that matter to the family and the community. HCCF is committed to making this process simple, respectful, and responsive to the wishes of those involved, while ensuring thoughtful stewardship of all gifts.

Community Memorial Fund: HCCF maintains a Community Memorial Fund to receive memorial gifts. When a memorial gift is made:

- without a designated fund, or
- in honor of an individual or family without an existing fund

the gift will be placed in the Community Memorial Fund.

HCCF works, whenever possible, with the donor or family to determine how these gifts can best be used to reflect the life and values of the person being remembered. Families are not expected to make these decisions immediately. Memorial gifts may be held for a reasonable period of time to allow for thoughtful consideration and conversation (generally limited to 6-12 months).

Memorial gifts may ultimately be used in one or more of the following ways:

- Grants to charitable organizations or purposes meaningful to the family
- Added to an existing fund at HCCF designated by the donor or family, where appropriate
- Used to establish a new fund in honor or memory of a loved one, once minimum funding requirements are met

HCCF's role is to support families in making thoughtful decisions while ensuring that memorial gifts are ultimately used for meaningful charitable purposes. If no specific direction is provided after a reasonable period of time (generally within 6–12 months), HCCF will use the funds for charitable purposes that honor the individual and benefit the community, consistent with its mission and stewardship responsibilities, and in a manner that reflects the intent of the memorial.

Establishing a Memorial Fund: Some families choose to create a lasting legacy through a named fund. In some cases, memorial gifts may not reach the minimum required to establish a new fund, and HCCF will work with families to identify meaningful alternative charitable uses. When memorial gifts reach the minimum level established by HCCF, or when a donor makes a qualifying gift at or above that level, a new fund may be established in honor or memory of an individual or family. These funds:

- are held and administered by HCCF
- are guided by a written fund agreement, where applicable

- may support broad community needs, a specific field of interest, or particular charitable purposes

Grants from these funds are made in accordance with the fund agreement and HCCF's grantmaking policies, with donor intent guiding decisions, consistent with the Foundation's responsibility to serve the community over time.

Stewardship and Grantmaking: All memorial gifts are irrevocable charitable contributions to HCCF and are stewarded with care and respect. The Board of Directors delegates authority to staff to administer memorial gifts and to carry out grantmaking in accordance with established policies and fund agreements, with appropriate oversight. All grants must support charitable purposes.

Communication and Recognition: HCCF will make every effort to:

- acknowledge memorial gifts in a timely and thoughtful manner, both to the donor and with notice to the family
- recognize memorial gifts publicly, such as through HCCF publications or local media, unless the donor or family requests otherwise
- respect the wishes of donors and families regarding recognition or anonymity
- share, when appropriate, the impact of gifts made in memory of loved ones

General Provisions: HCCF retains variance power over all funds, as provided in its governing documents, to ensure that charitable gifts continue to be used in ways that honor donor intent while responding to the evolving needs of the community.