



Donor Advised Funds



The Ekstrands

OVERVIEW

a personal approach to giving

Opening a Donor Advised Fund allows you to make a gift to West Central Initiative, then remain actively involved in suggesting uses for your gift.

How it works

- You make a gift to West Central Initiative—you can give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate or other assets.
- We set up a special fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.
- You receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made.
- You recommend uses for the fund—working with our professional program staff to support the causes and organizations you care about most.
- Your recommendations are presented to the West Central Initiative Board for approval.
- We handle all the administrative details and issue grants to charities in the name of the fund you establish (if you prefer, grants can be made anonymously).
- Your gift can be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. You recommend how earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift—and all future earnings from your gift—is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.

See our donor advised fund videos at <http://vimeo.com/wciminn>.

Family shares values with a donor advised fund

A single word steered Rick and Tammie Ekstrand's decision to set up a donor advised fund: share.

The family meets twice a year to decide which local activities and programs they'd like to help support. Every adult family member takes part in the decisions.

The Ekstrands want to share their values with their children, while also learning what the children value. "You can say whatever you want, but actions speak louder than words. By having my kids and grandchildren at least aware of it and how it works, they have a better idea of what stewardship is," Rick says.

WCI makes things simple by doing the paperwork, Rick continues. "We send our request to WCI, they cut the check to the entity, and send those checks back to us to disperse ... You do not have to have a great deal of abundance to set up a fund. WCI is very efficient about using the money and distributing it."



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. Community Foundations

West Central Initiative is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Ten reasons

people choose to give through West Central Initiative:

- 1 We are a local organization with deep roots in the region
- 2 Our professional program staff has broad expertise regarding community issues and needs
- 3 We provide highly personalized service tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests
- 4 Our Donor Advised Funds help people invest in the causes they care about most
- 5 We accept a wide variety of assets, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving
- 6 We partner with professional advisors to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving
- 7 Your gift is tax deductible to the maximum allowed by state and federal law
- 8 We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants
- 9 We build endowment funds that benefit the region forever and help create personal legacies
- 10 We are a regional leader, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change

Donor Advised Funds are convenient, flexible tools for individuals, families, businesses, or groups that want to be personally involved in suggesting grant awards made possible by their gifts. If you have a range of community interests, you may find that it's an ideal vehicle for fulfilling your charitable wishes. Donor Advised Funds are typically less costly and easier to administer than other forms of philanthropic giving (such as family or corporate foundations).

Your gift can be combined with others to increase its impact, and you can add to the fund you establish at any time, receiving tax benefits with each new gift. You can establish a fund today and make grant recommendations now or in the future. And if you endow your gift, it becomes a permanent community funding resource.

West Central Initiative and its local component funds provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. We offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals. You can make a gift of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate or other assets to West Central Initiative or your local community fund. Charitable gifts qualify for maximum tax advantage under federal law. For more information and ideas on ways to integrate your financial planning with charitable giving, ask your financial advisor or contact Rebecca Lynn Petersen at 800 735-2239.

"If you are fortunate to have, there are many who don't have. Part of the deal is that it's your responsibility to give back. That comes in a lot of forms, and this is the form we chose. I feel very grateful that we can do it."

— RICK EKSTRAND



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