

Community Foundation achieves highest national standards after rigorous peer-review process.

For good. For ever.

Trust. The word is used every day, and often very loosely. While anyone can use the term, you cannot bestow trust upon yourself; it has to be earned and validated in the eyes of others.

For that reason, we are delighted to announce that the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has achieved national standards for operational quality, donor service, and accountability in the community foundation sector. As a result, you will now see the national standards seal, shown above, on many of our publications.

To receive confirmation of national standards compliance, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne submitted its organizational and financial policies and procedures to a rigorous peer review. The national standards seal by our name indicates official confirmation from the Indiana Grantmakers Alliance (IGA) and the Council on Foundations that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability. It says our grantmaking includes an open, competitive process designed to address the changing needs of our community. The national standards Seal also confirms our history of honoring donors' wishes—to support the arts, expand literacy, or feed children—and support countless other important causes.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program was established in 2000 in cooperation with the Council on Foundations. The Indiana Grantmakers Alliance operates a program in tandem with the national program, and, due to a reciprocal agreement, adherence to IGA standards confers compliance with the national standards. The standards guide community foundations in establishing legal, ethical and effective operational practices. The 43 national standards require the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne to document its policies in governance, donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration.

Transparency in governance is an important part of our efforts to abide by not only the letter but the spirit of the national standards. If you look on our website (www.cfgfw.org), you'll see many of the documents we use to affirm our compliance with the standards. In particular, look at the "How We Do Business" page. As the designation of a public charity implies, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne exists because of public support. We take very seriously our obligation to earn the public's trust. The Community Foundation is accountable to the public for our operations. To that end we have implemented numerous internal controls that provide assurance to our donors and protect the assets entrusted to our care.

Our staff and volunteers work hard to make your Community Foundation the best it can be. We are pleased that our state and national organizations recognize this, and we are proud to be in compliance with the national standards.