



Professional Advisor Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Russell County Area Community Foundation?

The Russell County Area Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF), which is a public charity that was formed in 1999 and that has received formal approval from the Internal Revenue Service as a so-called "501(c)(3) organization."

2. What is a "community foundation"?

It is a pool of endowment funds for long-term support of charitable causes in and around one or more local communities. A local board of directors from the Russell County area guides the Foundation and is responsible for all grant distributions from the Russell County Area Community Foundation. They are chosen because of their knowledge of and contributions to the community, as well as their diverse professional experience.

The Russell County Area Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF). The GSCF staff serves as an administrative arm to RCACF and helps them assist donors in creating funds and making distributions in accordance with the donors' intent.

3. Isn't the United Way a community foundation?

The United Way is geared toward short-term giving, whereas a community foundation, by design, is geared toward long-term giving. Also, the United Way operates from an annually re-generated asset base, whereas a community foundation operates from an endowed, permanent asset base. A fairly recent editorial in the Hutchinson News gives perhaps the best characterization of this difference – "Where the United Way fund operates as a community's checking account, the foundation acts as a community's savings account."

4. Won't a community foundation hurt the Russell County area's already-existing charities?

A community foundation is not a place to give money, but rather a way to give money. It does not compete with or detract from other charities; on the contrary, it nurtures and enhances them. A community foundation has no programs of its own, and for that reason is often called a "conduit charity" or a "pass-through charity." In fact, a community foundation is so beneficial that existing charities will often use it as their own endowment arm. More than 60 local charities have done just that through our host Foundation, the Greater Salina Community Foundation and other affiliates.