



Case Statement

The St. Charles Area Community Foundation (SCACF) was organized in September of 2015 to create long-term financial support for community betterment initiatives both within the city of St. Charles and the surrounding area. We provide a way to connect residents and businesses with causes they care about for multi-generational sustainability. As a partner with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), the SCACF holds endowed funds and pass-through funds that are invested as well as distributed to organizations, individuals, and programs that help to better the St. Charles area.

MISSION: To serve the Saint Charles area by supporting programs and projects that improve the quality of life and build a stronger community.

The SCACF Board of Directors has identified the following areas of development:

- 1) **Quality of Life Initiatives** –support of public beautification, educational programming, community growth initiatives, and immediate or emerging community needs.
- 2) **Health & Wellness** – support of parks and trails, and additional public facilities or community programming/events, healthy initiatives and education, and economic vitality.
- 3) **Community Collaboration**—partnering with civic organizations, neighboring townships and other governmental units, coalitions and foundations, and other non-profits that share our mission.

St. Charles is a progressive and vital city that is both supported and supportive of the region. The SCACF board volunteers have come together with a shared vision to ensure the residents, non-profits, and businesses can help to maintain a high quality of life in order to attract and retain diverse, vibrant, caring citizens while building the community and region from within.

Why a Foundation?

There are times that we ask ourselves, how can I help make a difference in my community? Where can I make a donation that will have meaning not only now, but also in the future? Establishing the St. Charles Area Community Foundation provides that mechanism is in place to receive donations and enable a

donor to specify the organizations or services they want to support. The SCACF provides a simple, powerful, and highly personal approach to giving. With our partners at SMIF, we offer a variety of giving tools to help people achieve their charitable goals. This mechanism helps to bring people together to invest in the long-term legacy of the community while addressing local issues and opportunities.

There are two primary types of funds through SCACF and associated benefits for the donor:

- 1) Endowments: the endowment grants up to 4% of the total fund to selected applicants. *Benefit to donor: Federal deductibility.*
- 2) Pass-through Funds: General funds support selected applicants, specific programs, or operating expenses as determined by the board. *Benefit to donor: Federal deductibility.*

With either of the funds above, the donor can indicate a preference for one of the two types of funds. If no indication is made, the Board will have the discretion to assign the funds as necessary.

2016 & 2017 Goal

The SCACF has a goal of raising \$100,000 in the inaugural year of the foundation.

*\$75,000 in Endowed Funds

*\$25,000 in General Funds

Board members believe that in order to be an effective and contributing organization of the area and community, attaining short-term successes is vital to the growth of the organization. In addition, until the endowment fund is large enough to support annual grants at the maximum of 4% of the endowment fund, a goal of \$25,000 of general fund dollars will provide necessary seed money to make a difference in the onset.

Donor Recognition

Donors to the SCACF are acknowledged in a variety of ways including the website, promotional materials, as well as the local media.

Donor levels are:

Champion	\$25,000 or more
Advocate	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Founder	\$1,000 - \$9,999
Member	\$100 - \$999
Friend	\$0 - \$99

Donations can be sent to:

St. Charles Area Community Foundation
P.O. Box 743
St. Charles, MN 55972

Your contribution to the St. Charles Area Community Foundation endowment can make a real difference as we work to sustain our area today, tomorrow and beyond our lifetimes! For more information, please visit us at <https://smifoundationorg.presencehost.net/philanthropy/community-foundation-giving/st-charles-area-community-foundation.html>

You can also check us out on Facebook! St. Charles Area Community Foundation.