

Thank you to the many community foundations that shared their stories with us through the survey. Here is a sample of the stories we received. While some states had more than one story, other states did not have a DAF story from a community foundation. We are missing a story from the following states: Wyoming, Tennessee, South Dakota, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Montana, North Dakota, Maine, Kentucky, Kansas, Idaho, Hawaii, Washington D.C., and Delaware. **Please contact the Council at [govt@cof.org](mailto:govt@cof.org) to share a story from your state.**

## Donor Advised Fund Stories by State

### **Alabama**

*“Donor advised funds made more than \$470,000 in grants to help with tornado recovery efforts in the wake of the 2011 outbreak of tornadoes which affected many counties in the state of Alabama which, without these funds, we would have not been able to provide as much funding toward that issue.”*

### **Alaska**

*“From large grants to a capital campaign to build a youth shelter, to two DAF’s joining together to fund a [house building project], to having 10 DAF donors join the Community Foundation to start a teen suicide grant cycle, our DAFs address local needs.”*

### **Arizona**

*“We have a DAF that is the sole supporter of efforts to recruit and train youth to participate in government in our region.”*

### **Arkansas**

*“A small business owner wanted to pass on a legacy of giving to the community that had given so much to the family. He established 6 donor advised endowments for his 6 grandchildren. He told the grandchildren 3 things: 1. You will have things other don’t and I expect you to continue to give to this fund throughout your lifetime; 2. Find something in the community that you are passionate about and support it—be a part of your community; and 3. Pass this value of giving to your children.”*

### **California**

*“Our community foundation was approached by a small nonprofit to raise funds for transitional housing for foster youth. We approached several of our DAF’s and some private foundations in the community and we raised the funds very quickly for a need that was immediate.”*

### **Colorado**

*“We have a donor who established a fund in 2011 to address concerns about the safety and security of individuals and families living in the region who find themselves in mental health or substance abuse crises and who cannot afford treatment.”*

### **Connecticut**

*“One of our donor advised funds was established to make annual grants to improve the quality of education in an urban school system through support and recognition of excellent teachers and to increase community awareness of the power of teachers in the educational process.”*

**Florida**

*"We just completed a significant campaign to provide food this summer for the 21,000 kids in our community who are on free and reduced lunch during the school year, but not fed in the summer. The campaign raised over \$1.2MM for our local food bank - the initial challenge \$500,000 came from over 40 donors who held DAFs both with us and with others."*

**Georgia**

*"We have a donor keenly interested in environmental issues, who approached us with an idea for an initiative to help nonprofit organizations owning their own buildings make them more energy efficient, saving dollars which could be redirected to the programs they offer and clients they serve. The donor has funded the entire program, now in its 6th year, and has helped more than 125 organizations with more than \$1.3 million in capital improvements, resulting in average savings of 16% on energy consumption and 20% on water usage. The program is now piloting similar initiatives in 2 additional states with funds from the donor."*

**Illinois**

*"One DAF funds a small organization that provides a unique service of transforming tattoos, brands and other body art to individuals who are trying to escape gang affiliation, prostitution and/or abusive relationships. This organization would not be eligible for grants from our foundation but is thriving, in part, due to the grants from this DAF."*

**Indiana**

*"DAF funds created an initiative to address water quality in the county and region. The grant required community groups come together to address water quality in a manner that: encompassed education, provided data driven results, and is replicable in other areas. As a result [a local college] now houses the [center]. This initiative started in 2005 and continues to receive support from the DAF that started it as well as many other donors."*

**Iowa**

*"One DAF provided \$100,000 of seed funding to a new organization which helped them develop their organization and will be implementing a community plan that will transform a public park and watershed area into a \$40 million public learning and recreation area that will be twice the size of Central Park in NYC."*

**Louisiana**

*"Recently, a local university had an emergency scholarship need and staff reached out to various donors who were able to help fund the need. Also, through the education events the foundation holds, two DAFs provided funding to help at risk youth that otherwise they would not been aware of."*

**Maryland**

*"We hold a DAF from a family with four children who wanted to create a family tradition of discussing community concerns and awarding grants based upon these family discussions. It is the donors' hope that their children will become more cognizant of people in need and will realize that being generous is a responsibility that all in the community should share."*

**Massachusetts**

*"One of our funds grants several hundred thousand dollars each year to public schools in poor communities for educational technology they would not otherwise be able to afford."*

**Michigan**

*"A donor advised fund set up to fund children's needs in the community funded the replacement of many playground structures deemed unsafe within the community. The city was not able to do because of funding constraints."*

**Minnesota**

*"A DAF funded the building of a community hospice house. This would not have occurred any other way."*

**Mississippi**

*“Our oldest DAF was opened by a very strategic thinking philanthropist who aims to have her DAF-granting activity make social change or long-term improvements in the community. She thinks, plans and gives long term.”*

**Missouri**

*“Donors have built up significant donor advised funds over years so that they could support key community projects, such as our performing arts center and a new cancer center for our regional hospital which just received its NIH designation.”*

**Nebraska**

*“Our local Boy Scout troop was in need of a new vehicle to use to transport scouts and camping equipment to various locations. An opportunity arose for them to purchase a vehicle that had a short window of opportunity. We were able to call donor advisors and make up the difference in the amount of money they needed.”*

**Nevada**

*“We are a rural community with a small, struggling 4-year liberal arts college. By working with the community foundation, one DAF donor was able to purchase and provide start-up operational funding to the college to create an arts and media center. If there had been a mandatory payout requirement on the DAF, the fund would not have been able to “save up” enough assets over the past few years to make this purchase that has been so very important to our whole community - not just the college itself.”*

**New Hampshire**

*“One of our donors established a small DAF and since doing so has become more involved in the community, more aware of issues and is now moving a significant chunk of his resources to our community foundation and will do more substantial grantmaking in the future.”*

**New Mexico**

*“Our community has experienced some pressing needs in regards to homelessness, hunger, and education. We were able to work with donor advisors to provide some critical funding in these areas.”*

**New York**

*“One of our donors took care of her aging mother, who had Alzheimer's disease. Remembering how hard that caregiving was, our donor created a fund in her mother's name and then asked us to help her create a program to recruit and train volunteers who could provide respite for family caregivers serving people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.”*

**North Carolina**

*“Six of our DAF donors recently responded to a time-sensitive need to assess the K-3 volunteer literacy packets and to align them to the new reading standards at each grade level so that the curriculum being used by volunteers to strengthen literacy for those K-3 students would be more effective. .”*

**Ohio**

*“One of our donors with a flow-through DAF was able to contribute significant funding to build a skate park for local teens to give them a safe place to develop their sport (away from local walls, steps and parking lots which were not safe nor meant for skateboards.)”*

**Oklahoma**

*“We launched [an initiative for veterans] after several donor advisors approached us for more information on the needs of local veterans. The interest of our donor advisors initially resulted in \$250,000 in funding to launch two new veteran-resources projects, and has since inspired our board to prioritize the needs of post-9/11 veterans as part of our organization's strategic plan.”*

**Oregon**

*“A local business leader and his wife created a donor advised fund, primarily to serve their rural region of southwest Oregon. The fund makes multiple grants each year and for 18 years thus far has supported a diverse range of charitable organizations, including the local university, a statewide literacy program for young children, a regional land conservancy, and Oregon’s only [national park].”*

**Texas**

*“One fund holder made a two-year grant to support [autism research], and another fund holder family uses their fund to support of Sarcoma research.”*

**Utah**

*“Many of our DAF holders are young entrepreneurs who were not philanthropic prior to the sale of a business or another wealth creating event. Our DAFs are funding the community foundation’s leading efforts to seed social enterprises that are employing low income individuals, and creating stability and sustainability in the nonprofit sector.”*

**Vermont**

*“Our Giving Together program invites DAF advisors to participate in responding to vetted discretionary grant proposals so they can be fully funded. Without DAF participation, our discretionary dollars would not address community needs as well.”*

**Virginia**

*“In 2013, three local nonprofits collaboratively submitted a \$100,000 proposal to create a respite program for families who adopt special needs children. These devoted families need trained caregivers for their children and cannot rely on typical babysitting services. A [group member] was so inspired by the organization’s outlined need and confident of [the community foundation’s] endorsement that she recommended a grant of \$100,000 from her Donor Advised Fund. This was the largest grant she had ever made and it fully funded this identified community need.”*

**Washington**

*“We have had donor advised fund holders contribute public art to our community, help with parks renovations and help provide a variety of programs for youth, disabled and senior populations.”*

**West Virginia**

*“One of our large DAFs makes grants to organizations with programs that assist young adults who have aged out of the foster care system and find themselves without any type of support.”*

**Wisconsin**

*“A number of DAFs have contributed to the support of a collaboration between our YMCA, our Boys and Girls Club, and our public schools to create a model of child education that includes education, health and wellness, and a safety net for children.”*