

A photograph of four women participating in a community gardening activity on a rooftop. The woman on the left, wearing a dark blue jacket, is pouring water from a large metal watering can labeled 'Pocket Forests' into a wooden planter box. The other three women, dressed in winter clothing like scarves and hats, are looking on. The background shows a brick building with many windows and a colorful striped banner.

Community
Foundation
Ireland

Endowment Funds

Investing Today, Supporting
Thriving Communities into the Future

For change. For better. For all.

“We decided to endow our donation with Community Foundation Ireland and despite the global crises we have seen, the funding has been reliable and sustainable.

We feel confident that the difference we’re making will grow and strengthen for decades to come. It’s a true family legacy.”

– Endowment Fund Donor



Endowment Funds Drive Impact for Generations

At Community Foundation Ireland we work with our donors, supporters and community partners, to achieve a shared vision – Equality for All in Thriving Communities. Central to this commitment to drive positive impact in communities, is ensuring a long-term sustainable funding model. This is our Endowment Fund, a powerful funding tool that extends impact for generations to come.

Endowment represents more than a financial commitment - it is a promise.

It is a promise that the causes our donors care about most – such as equality, education, young people, the environment, social equity - will continue to be supported into the future, in perpetuity.

Our endowment fund ensures that your donation is preserved and grown. Through expert and prudent investment and stewardship, each contribution will continue to support vital initiatives in our communities.

By investing today, we are building a better tomorrow.

Whether you are a long-time donor with Community Foundation Ireland or just beginning your journey with us, we invite you to be part of this enduring legacy.



Tim Murphy
Chair Investment Committee
Community Foundation Ireland



Denise Charlton
CEO
Community Foundation Ireland

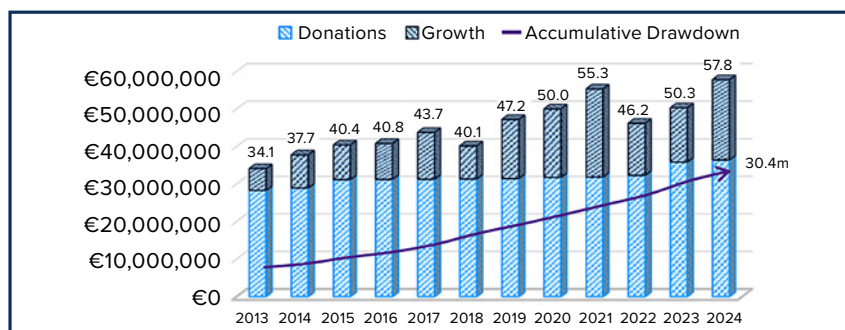
Endowment Funds Drive Strategic, Long-term Impact

The sustainability of endowment funding lies in the fact that the principal capital of the donation is preserved and reinvested each year. A real rate of return over the long-term is earned, growing the original capital to benefit future generations to come.

On an annual basis, a percentage of the value of the fund is drawn down for our donors to grant-make to programmes and projects and to support the work of the Foundation. This type of funding provides consistent and sustainable annual returns, facilitating and supporting strategic and long-term impact.

Lasting Impact for Generations to Come

Our donors, supported by strategic investment decisions, have grown our endowment fund from an initial donation of €1 million in the year 2000 to over €50 million today.



An endowment gift doesn't just sustain impact—it multiplies it.

Grant-making from the endowment fund supports critical social issues such as climate, poverty, equality and can provide a swift response to new and emerging challenges such as the environmental crisis or Ukraine Crisis. Our donors and the Foundation facilitate important interventions to support and convene key partners around societal issues, providing multi-annual funding and supporting advocacy, as well as supporting the work of the Foundation itself.



Benefits of our Endowment Fund



Long-term Stability

Supports long-term impact and drives social issues.



Tax Advantages

This is a tax-exempt investment.



Legacy Building

Donors can leave a lasting legacy securing impact for generations to come. Legacy giving can also bring families together and encourage younger members of families to become involved in strategic giving.



Control and Flexibility

This fund allows donors to be in full control of their giving, or to give the discretion to the expert team in Community Foundation Ireland.



Perpetual Investment

These long-term investments remain in perpetuity.



Donations

Can be large or small, once off or regular.

Governance and Expertise

We value the trust our donors place in us, therefore are committed to the highest standards of corporate governance, transparency and accountability.

Community Foundation Ireland's Investment Committee plays a vital role in the stewarding of our investments. Expert business leaders and advisors working alongside the Foundation's Board, establish and implement the investment policy which is reviewed yearly and available on our website. The Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines incorporate appropriate investment guidelines and constraints reflecting our values.

This Committee appoints the Investment Manager and monitors performance closely while also setting parameters for the management of the portfolio. The Investment Committee receives regular reports from the appointed external Investment Manager and meets with them regularly to consider the performance of investment markets and to review their detailed management of the Fund.

Responsible & Climate-Conscious Endowment Management

We work closely with our investment manager, to align our endowment with principles that consider both financial sustainability and broader social and environmental factors. We are dedicated to addressing the critical challenges of climate change and have furthered our commitment by adopting a Climate Active Philosophy for our endowment management. By aligning our investments with this philosophy, we actively contribute to global decarbonisation efforts, using our influence to drive meaningful change in the business sector while protecting our financial future.

Our endowment is managed with a focus on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors, ensuring that investment decisions consider responsible corporate behaviour. We continue to engage with our investment manager to review and refine our approach, seeking to balance financial returns with long-term positive impact.



Driving Change through Intentional Investment

Philanthropy is a journey and Community Foundation Ireland offers a number of different ways to give and to ensure long term impact is supported and sustained.

Give Where the Need is Greatest

You can join other like-minded donors to support the Community Foundation Ireland Endowment Fund. As a progressive and proactive foundation, we continue to identify key societal issues of our time and provide opportunities for our donors to positively impact some of these challenges.

Give Where is Closest to the Heart

If you wish to make a difference where it feels most personal and relevant to you, whilst also taking advantage of the unparalleled opportunity that endowment offers, you can work with our team to direct your returns via a Donor-Advised Endowment Fund. This long-term investment vehicle can be named in recognition of your family, in memory of a loved one or anonymously.

Many donors choose this option if they have received a lump sum via a legacy or business sale. It is also an excellent vehicle to engage the family in the practice of charitable giving.

Our team are on hand to support you in your decision making with your giving and the impact you wish to have.

Endowment is a powerful way to create a lasting contribution, which benefits both the cause and the donor.



Long-Term Impact of a Generous Family through Endowment Giving

A generous Irish family set up a significant fund with Community Foundation Ireland after the sale of a business to support their wish to give back and enhance the philanthropic journey of the family members into the future.

“When I sold the company, we made a family decision to split the pot 3 ways: a third for charitable activities, a third to the kids and a third for my wife and I.”

Given the time and cost entailed in setting up a family foundation, they chose the Community Foundation Ireland Endowment Fund as the best route for their philanthropic investment. It offers them flexibility in their grant-making, an ability to include all members of the family and to ensure their giving continues into the future.

“We decided to set it all up with Community Foundation Ireland for less than one tenth the cost of doing it ourselves.”

The family took a strategic view of social impact, which was key to their grant-making commitments to projects that addressed the root causes of issues to help identify and implement solutions, rather than providing a short-term fix. Their areas of focus include penal reform, violence against women, child safety, education, all-island work, and poverty.

Examples of the impact their fund is having include:

- Supporting housing and food for hungry families in emergency centres for over a decade
- Bringing music, colour and fun into the lives of sick children, people living with dementia and other serious illnesses.
- Supporting groundbreaking research into gender-based violence.
- Supporting the successful widening of a national debate around consent, pushing for policies which confront violence in the home.

With annual returns for grant-making, they know the difference they are making will grow and strengthen for decades to come, leaving a true family legacy.



Together, We Can Achieve More

About Us

Community Foundation Ireland has a clear mission - Equality For All in Thriving Communities. Our team is dedicated to building an equal and better future. We provide a trusted source of expertise and knowledge for individuals, families and organisations who are looking to maximise the impact of philanthropic donations and have a positive impact through their giving.

For change. For better. For all.

Get in Touch

Let's start a conversation today. Contact us to learn more about the Community Foundation Endowment Fund and how your support can make a meaningful difference in communities all over Ireland.

You can call us on +353 (0)1 8747354 or email us in the Development Team.

For change. For better. For all.

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