



United Way of Thurston County *Endowment Fund*

Most of us feel very lucky to live in Thurston County. Our community has natural beauty, good schools, helpful neighbors and a small-town feel built upon a tradition of mutual trust and genuine concern for each other. A collaborative spirit is the hallmark of our outstanding community.

Yet our community also faces challenges.

- Twenty percent of homeless individuals in Thurston County are children.
- Twenty percent of our community's children also live in poverty and about 25 percent don't graduate from high school on time.
- Close to 16 percent of adults have no health insurance, a figure above the national average.
- Local food banks are seeing more working families than ever, unable to make ends meet with increasing costs for basic necessities needed to raise families and be self-sufficient.

United Way of Thurston County wants to preserve the outstanding qualities of our community for our children and grandchildren by developing an endowment fund to help meet vital needs on an ongoing basis. Looking ahead, the combination of long-term strategies with an endowment will help United Way address many of our community's challenges more effectively and for generations to come.

Why build an endowment for our United Way?

- Though United Way is the leading private funder of health and human service programs in Thurston County, we are often unable to meet even half of qualified funding requests.
- Each year many valid requests from nonprofit agencies go unfunded.
- Giving to our annual community campaign is often affected by outside forces such as a sluggish economy or natural and international disasters that have great needs but leave our nonprofit community at risk of reduced vital local support.
- When donors target their gifts to designated organizations, it reduces the amount we can invest in community programs.
- Many prospective donors are hesitant to have their gift support even a small administrative fee. An endowed fund to generate revenue to offset United Way's operating costs would help address that concern and increase community giving.

**In light of these circumstances, the United Way Board of Directors has created the
United Way of Thurston County Endowment Fund
to augment annual campaign revenues and develop innovative, new programs to meet local needs.**

Gifts to the United Way of Thurston County endowment will be kept in perpetuity and invested to generate income used to further the organization's work.

We are asking our supporters to make a gift to endow their critically important annual support forever. Income from a carefully invested restricted endowment will provide a dependable stream of income to underwrite basic services during difficult economic times and develop new and innovative programs in healthy times. An endowment would support current Impact Area programs, special initiatives, emerging needs and ongoing vital operations of the agency.

How a donor chooses to make a gift may vary, from outright gifts of cash, appreciated securities and real estate, to gifts through bequests, life insurance, and retirement plan designations. Whether a donor prefers an immediate or a planned gift, all that is necessary is a commitment to help our community forever. The endowment fund will be managed by financial experts through The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound.

The endowment fund will address two important areas:

Program Support

- Community Initiatives
- Emerging Needs
- Impact Areas

Sustaining Ongoing Needs

- Operations
- Special Projects
- Technology Improvements

Establishing a Permanent Named Endowment Fund:

Donors may establish permanent endowment funds named for themselves or others for \$25,000 or more. Funds may be built over time with a combination of giving methods. For example, a donor may give an outright tax-advantaged gift to initiate an endowment; pledge additional payments over several years; make one or more irrevocable split-interest gifts; and name an additional amount in his or her will, insurance policy, or retirement plan distribution, with all amounts going to build the named fund. A family may even specify that gifts in the donor's memory be added to the fund and make additional gifts at birthdays or holidays. Donors may use any combination of gifts to achieve the goal of a major named fund. The fund will support the stated purpose in perpetuity in the name of the person or persons honored.

Developing an endowment fund is vital to secure the future of United Way of Thurston County. Its income will support our mission and provide long-term sustainable funding to meet the needs of our community's children, youth, families and seniors. Consider making a meaningful gift today to support community needs in our future.

Thank you for considering a gift to the United Way of Thurston County Endowment Fund!

For more information, please contact:

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