

Transforming giving into positive impact





For over a decade, the Community Foundation of Singapore (CFS) has been inspiring giving. As Singapore's only community foundation, our work engages donors, strengthens communities and builds a more inclusive and caring Singapore.

Established in 2008 as a registered charity with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status, CFS partners with donors seeking to make meaningful change in Singapore.

By setting up charitable funds, individuals, families and businesses work with us to address diverse needs in the community.

From giving to impact

At CFS, the simple act of giving goes a long way. We believe in philanthropy that extends the reach of traditional charity. Here, donors have every opportunity to make their mark on the bigger picture.

Transforming giving into positive impact is at the heart of what we do. We champion philanthropy based on community needs, because we believe in the power of informed giving.

As we continue to seek ways to make a difference with our donors and communities, one thing remains constant: our commitment to the process — from giving to impact.

Why give through CFS

CFS matches donors' interests with causes and offers ways for them to make a greater impact through their charitable funds. With our deep understanding of local issues and evolving needs, CFS identifies gaps and opportunities in the community to foster more effective giving.

We engage with over 400 charity partners on programmes that impact diverse communities. More importantly, we manage funds and grants with a high level of accountability, so donors can be assured their gifts create lasting benefit.



Match donors' interests with causes that are close to their hearts and offer ways for them to make a greater impact.



Collaborate with charitable organisations to identify meaningful programmes that impact diverse communities.



Manage funds and grants with a high level of accountability, so donors can be assured their gifts create lasting benefit for the community.

Our services



Giving should be a rewarding experience. At CFS, we can help find the best way to give back by matching your giving goals with the needs of the community.

Philanthropy advisory

Reach your philanthropic goals with a tailored strategy to optimise the scope of your giving. With our knowledge of community needs and giving opportunities, CFS can help translate your interests and goals into a defined plan.

Managing your fund

We are here to help make the giving process simple and seamless for you. By centralising your giving with CFS, you can leave all the administrative work to us, save on legal expenses and enjoy tax deductions upfront. You will also receive half-yearly statements, tracking incoming donations to your fund and outgoing disbursements to charities.

Safeguarding your grants

CFS maps your interests and preferred causes, then helps navigate the charitable sector by bridging your giving intent to funding needs within the community. As your trusted partner in philanthropy, we ensure that all grants are made with high levels of care and accountability. CFS offers charity due diligence, programme evaluation, targeted grantmaking and outcomes reporting.

Keeping you engaged

For a more hands-on giving experience, we keep you engaged throughout the giving process. You can opt to visit the charities you are supporting, and if you are interested, there will be opportunities for you to deepen your understanding of the local landscape.

Types of causes and support

What would you like to achieve? Whom would you like to help? How would you like to do this? For a rewarding giving experience, it is important to find the best fit — taking into consideration your charitable goals and the desired impact.

There are various ways to contribute to a cause — these include funding bursaries, scholarships, programmes, pilot projects, capacity building or general operating support.

GIVING IDEAS



















Ways to give

You may give to honour your family, values, business ethos or heritage. Your giving may even be inspired by a life experience or a wish to create a legacy.

A donor advised fund with CFS helps you to bring your philanthropic ideas to life — to create greater impact and reach your charitable objectives.

In selecting a suitable type of donor advised fund, you are actively involved in deciding how to make the most of your philanthropic money. Here are some ways:

Flow through fund is ideal for those who want to create immediate impact. You can start making grants to causes and charities you value most today, see the results and evaluate if they meet your philanthropic goals in the long run.

Endowment fund is where your donation is held at CFS in perpetuity and invested. Income from the investment is directed to charitable causes of your choice. For those planning to set up a scholarship or support a charity over the long term, this fund type is a good option.

Term endowment fund is where your donation is held at CFS over a period of 10 years and invested. Income from the investment, as well as a portion of the principal amount, is directed over a decade to charitable causes of your choice.

Giving at every stage



No matter where you are on your philanthropic journey, CFS is equipped to support both firsttime philanthropists and those with a history of giving.

If you are new to philanthropy, your meeting with CFS begins with an initial consultation to identify your desired charitable objectives and preferred types of charities.

If you are looking to extend charitable giving from ad hoc support, CFS offers advice on aligning and refining your charitable giving.

Donors with several years of giving experience can take advantage of CFS's expertise for a strategic review of past giving initiatives, or recommendations for potential future giving directions.

For companies, CFS helps consolidate, review and align philanthropy with core business objectives or your corporate social responsibility initiatives.

As CFS works across many sectors, donors with CFS can opt to create a broad portfolio of giving with an extended reach, or they may choose to focus on depth.

Leaving a legacy

Legacy giving lets you make a lasting impact on future generations, far beyond the measure of your lifetime. It is the best way to offer enduring support to a cause you care about. You may also leave your gift unrestricted to provide flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of the community.

Building a legacy is an ongoing process driven by various motivations. CFS helps donors actualise their giving goals at key moments in their lifetime. To plan a legacy gift, you can start by setting up a fund in your own name or to honour the memory of a loved one.

Individual giving

Many donors give because they are driven by the change they wish to see in the world. Whether this is a cause you care about now, or a desire to touch the lives of future generations, CFS helps individuals to start giving, no matter what stage of life they are at.

Family giving

A family that gives together, stays together. As the older generation moves on from 'success' to 'significance', their focus often shifts to preparing the next generation for an active role in family giving. With a structured approach that recognises shared values, CFS helps families navigate generational interests to enable giving to continue.

Memorial giving

Commemorate the life of a cherished family member or celebrate a loved one's lifetime of achievement. A legacy fund is a fitting tribute to the way an individual lived his or her life. It allows a family to honour their loved ones by supporting a cause close to their hearts.

Collaborating for change

Our society is beset by complex and evolving social issues. At CFS, we recognise that we can only do so much alone. Through giving and collaborating with others, there is so much more we can achieve.

You could be a new donor interested in expanding your impact with others. Or you could have an inclination for learning about successful collaborations that result in more impactful social change.

Making collective impact with Colabs

Colabs, a philanthropic initiative by CFS and the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), drives collaboration by bringing together the public, private and social sectors to tackle complex social issues. It enables philanthropists, businesses, non-profits and sector experts with a common focus to build insights and co-create solutions together.

Social issues today are complex. They are often interconnected and present no clear causes, effects or even solutions. Often, these problems cannot be solved by any single entity or the government alone.

Colabs enables changemakers to take a collective impact approach by bringing together people who are dedicated to creating social change to uplift disadvantaged communities.

To find out more about Colabs, visit colabs.sg



Giving with community impact funds

CFS's community impact funds invite donors to support underserved causes. These funds are curated and managed by CFS and contributions are welcome from donors and the general public.

Some community impact funds we have set up include the Outing for the Elderly Fund, Safe Home Scheme, and Migrants Emergency Assistance and Support (MEANS) Fund.

Delivering impact



At CFS, impact motivates everything we do. From discussions with donors about their charitable intent to grant recommendations in support of programmes, making a difference is what philanthropy is about.

The impact of your giving can be enhanced in the following ways:

- Giving over time: sustained support for a programme or charity.
- Giving of significant grants: bolstered funding for expansion or scaling.
- Giving according to a defined strategy: aligning resources with funding gaps.

Assessing impact

When assessing impact, both qualitative and quantitative approaches offer valuable perspectives and should be considered.

Quantitative measures includes data such as number of beneficiaries reached, activities achieved and also reporting on specific outputs and outcomes.

Numbers, however, may not tell the whole story. A qualitative approach enables donors to appreciate impact by understanding the social and human dynamics. For example, have we enhanced quality of life or provided access to disadvantaged groups?

Ultimately, impact is defined as progress — a difference in 'before' and 'after'. At CFS, knowing that this can be achieved through acts of generosity is the driving force behind our work to cultivate a philanthropic culture.

Portraits of generosity



Govind Bommi Andal Cares Fund

About 20 years ago, businessman Govind Bommi moved to Singapore and laid down roots here. He considers this place home, which is why he chose to give back where he lives.

Govind approached CFS on the advice of his lawyer to start the Andal Cares Fund, named in honour of his late mother who inspired him to help others.

Before looking into CFS, he thought about setting up a trust fund on his own. But he realised it would take lots of time and resources, as well as ensure that it met all the governance requirements.

"That takes me away from spending time with the beneficiaries. Through CFS, my money is well-managed and put to good use," said Govind, who is now retired.



Keith ChuaMrs Lee Choon Guan Fund

Inspired by his great-grandmother who was a well-known philanthropist in her time, Keith Chua set up the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Fund with CFS and made education and healthcare some of the key areas it supports.

Starting a fund with CFS ensures that future generations would be able to continue the family's philanthropic work.

He said, "The seed of philanthropy was planted by the generations before me. Now, with the structure of CFS, the funds will carry on past my lifetime. Once you've set certain things in place, you can bring the next generation along for the ride and trust them with the responsibility when it's their turn."



Trina Liang-Lin and Edmund Lin Lin Foundation

For their 20th wedding anniversary, Trina Liang-Lin and Edmund Lin decided to start the Lin Foundation with CFS.

One reason why they felt CFS was a good fit was because of its wide reach across many charitable sectors. For busy professionals like them, CFS assists with the administration needed to manage a foundation and provides grantmaking expertise.

Trina said, "This is a long-term commitment for us, so setting up a fund with CFS helps to structure and evolve our philanthropic activity. We can tap on CFS's philanthropy advisory to enhance our strategic decision-making and monitor outcomes."



LiontrustLiontrust Charity Fund

When Liontrust founder Lim Wei-Jen started the trust and wealth management company in 2005, he set himself a personal long-term goal: to give back what he had benefitted from the community.

"To help others is a natural thing to do. It's nothing special but it's important that this value stays with us," said managing director Ashley Ong.

To formalise their charitable giving, the company started the Liontrust Charity Fund with CFS. A key reason why Liontrust chose to work with CFS was because of its wide network of partnerships with charitable organisations in Singapore, as well as its understanding of the community's needs.

Said Wei-Jen, "I really appreciate the extra help that we got from CFS. After working with them, we feel there's accountability as they help us make every dollar count."

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SINGAPORE





Community knowledge A deep understanding of local needs and opportunities.



Philanthropy advisory Builds on the values and vision of every donor to create an enriching journey of giving.



Effective grant management A credible steward of assets, providing grant expertise and administrative support. Get in touch with CFS today and let us help you do more with your giving.



Cover photo: Darren Soh



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