



## Granting Funds: Supporting What is Important to You

A granting fund gives you the opportunity to target your contribution to the area most important to you. Whether you are interested in education, youth, spirituality, the arts, or some other area of impact, these funds are broad in scope, yet targeted to meet the persistent needs of the community. The experienced and knowledgeable Catholic Foundation granting team will identify, evaluate, and award grants to the most qualified and deserving organizations and programs in your area(s) of interest.

### Benefits of Creating a Granting Fund

- **Integrity of Catholic Values** – The professional management team of the Catholic Foundation ensures all funds are invested in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' guidelines for socially responsible investments.
- **Simplicity and Ease** – our staff manages all administrative aspects of the process, from distributing the grant applications to granting the funds. You decide how involved you wish to be.
- **Visibility and Promotion** – The Foundation works with you to publicize the grant to the desired audience through the Catholic Foundation's reports, newsletters and website.
- **Peace of Mind** – Individuals and families can create a lasting legacy of generosity in line with their faith and in support of our community.

### Steps to Start Your Granting Fund

1. **Outline Your Goals.** Together the Catholic Foundation team will work with you to determine criteria that is meaningful to you.
2. **Name of the Fund.** The granting fund can be named after someone special to you, or the population or interest benefiting from the fund. Intention should be used as the name will be public.
3. **Make the Initial Contribution.** A gift to establish a granting fund must exceed \$25,000. Grants are typically made in the following year. Individuals and groups may continue to donate the established granting fund at any time and in any amount.
4. **Celebrate!** Join the Catholic Foundation at our annual granting celebration to honor the grant recipients.



- 5. Receive Ongoing Support.** The Foundation team is here to guide you along the way and answer any questions you may have. You will have online access to the balance and activity of the fund as well as the ability to see who contributes to the granting fund.

We invite you to prayerfully consider a Granting Fund with the Catholic Foundation of Michigan. Together as people of faith, we can spread the Light of Christ and make a difference in the lives of many, for generations to come!



*“God’s will: Peacefully do at each moment  
what, at that moment, ought to be done.”*

- St. Katharine Drexel



## Questions for Discernment Prior to Drafting Granting Criteria & Guidelines

In what ways is this personal?

- What are the values and beliefs you want this grant to reflect?
- What are the characteristics and ideals of the person/people you wish to honor/remember?
- What issues are important to you? Either to assist with a solution or provide encouragement.

Are there populations you would like to prioritize?

- Is there a population you would like to focus on?
- Consider age: Young children, youth, adults, older adults.
- Consider underserved communities.

What are the places or locations that are important to you?

- Should we focus on a specific area (state, region city)?
- Should we limit any areas? "Only those from can apply..."

What types of nonprofit organizations are you interested in benefiting?

- What are the qualities of a nonprofit or program that should receive this grant?
- Do you prefer the organizations are Catholic, faith-based, or do you not have a preference?
- Are there particular approaches or organizations you can think of now that are good examples of what you would like to support?

What kind of grants do you hope to make?

- Consider frequency: One-time, annual for a few years, annual for many years
- Consider size: Smaller grant dollars with multiple recipients? Larger grant dollars with fewer recipients?

How involved would you like to be?

- Would you like a hands-on role in making selections, or just outlining the criteria?
- Do you envision being involved for a few months, the first year, more than a year?
- What kind of information would you like to know about the organization to receive the grant?
- Do you ever desire to visit an organization that would receive a grant?

Are there types of organizations or programs you would NOT like to fund?