Do you have a passion for giving back in your community?

Have you always wanted to establish your own private foundation or charity but are nervous about the administrative needs?

Have you ever thought about making a hands-on difference in your community?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then establishing a supporting organization may be the best way to reach your philanthropic goals.
Supporting organizations of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta meet the unique needs of donors looking for cost-effective, comprehensive operational assistance for substantial philanthropy while maintaining autonomy. Each supporting organization retains its own identity and participates fully in grantmaking, investment decisions and operations, and receives the benefits of the Community Foundation’s professional and administrative services.

What is a supporting organization?
A supporting organization is a nonprofit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. A supporting organization is a subsidiary of the Community Foundation that has its own board of directors, bylaws, charitable status, grant priorities and investment policies. Through its close connection to the Community Foundation, a supporting organization is conferred public charity status and receives all of the associated tax benefits.

Why choose a supporting organization for your philanthropy?
Supporting organizations are a winning combination. They combine the giving freedom of a private foundation without the administrative headache, and the behind-the-scenes support of a donor-advised fund with more independence. With a supporting organization, you can focus on the giving while we take care of the paperwork.

Benefits of establishing a supporting organization:

- Conferred public charity status and all of the associated tax benefits through close association with the Community Foundation
- Immediate start-up
- High degree of autonomy and independence
- Benefit from being perceived publicly as an independent organization
- Independent board of directors (majority must be appointed by the Community Foundation because of its role as the “supported organization”)
- Hire own staff (supported by the Community Foundation’s Human Resources department)*
- Focus on mission, not administration
- Conduct charitable giving effectively
- No required minimum payout
- No excise taxes
- Access to the Community Foundation’s local philanthropy expertise*
- Access to the Community Foundation’s investment, financial, back office and technical support*

* Fee for service

CASE STUDY
The Choate Family
When a supporting organization drives ROI

The Choates were referred to the Community Foundation in 2002 and established a donor-advised fund. The Foundation provided them with help identifying nonprofits that support their passion for giving back and gave them the opportunity to quietly focus on philanthropy. In 2016, they established a supporting organization, the ROI Fund, Inc., which will give them even greater flexibility and enable their daughters to become more involved. "We can see the results from nonprofits whose missions are dear to us and there’s no better ROI than that!"

CASE STUDY
Achieve Atlanta
When supporting organizations support students

Achieve Atlanta helps students in Atlanta Public Schools to achieve their dreams by ensuring post-secondary education success. Its programs – from college access counseling, to need-based scholarships, to coaching and support once students are in college – supplement the academic preparation students receive with the financial and social/emotional supports they need. And it gets results. As of fall 2019, more than 2,000 Achieve Atlanta Scholars are attending over 200 colleges and universities.

Achieve Atlanta operates as an independent brand, with an independent board of directors, but behind the scenes it is a supporting organization of the Community Foundation. It was created in 2014 through an innovative partnership between the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation and Atlanta Public Schools. A supporting organization was the perfect structure to allow Achieve Atlanta to focus on programs and student success while leveraging the financially sound and established administrative underpinning of the Community Foundation.

It’s a unique relationship that benefits the Atlanta community, one student at a time.

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