

Donor-Advised Funds in The New York Community Trust

Set up a donor-advised fund in the place that invented them.

We set up the very first donor-advised fund in 1931. With all that experience under our belt, it's no surprise that New York Community Trust donors recommend us to their friends, family, and colleagues. In fact, satisfied donors are our largest source of referrals—followed closely by lawyers and financial advisors. They know we live up to a solid reputation for intelligence, integrity, and service.

With a donor-advised fund in The Trust, you have a complete set of philanthropic advisors behind you—experts who can help you tailor a giving strategy, advise on individual nonprofits, and bring you the latest information on the issues you care about.

Or, we can simply provide courteous, efficient, and rapid processing of the grants you recommend.

The choice is yours.

Set Up a Fund—It's Easy.

You can set up a donor-advised fund in less than a day. It's as simple as signing a one-page agreement and contributing any of a variety of assets to fund it. But before you do, you may want to consider the following:

Think About Your Charitable Passions. Do you want to fight poverty? Support green jobs? Help children forge a better future? Nurture the arts? Make the City a better place? Whether your interests are broad or narrow, or anywhere in the country, you can support them through a donor-advised fund in The Trust.

Decide What to Give. We accept cash, publicly traded stock, and usually can accept closely held stock, copyrights, life insurance, and other complex assets.

Family & Others. Do you want family, colleagues, or financial advisors to be able to recommend grants from your fund? Do you want your children or grandchildren to succeed you as advisors? You can do both.

Set Up Your Fund. When you've made your decisions, you name the fund. We have funds that were started with \$75 million, but our minimum is \$5,000. Contact Bob Edgar at (212) 686-0010 x373 or at rve@nycf.org and he will send you a draft copy of the fund agreement.

If You Have a Private Foundation. We believe that donor-advised funds in The Trust are a better charitable choice than private foundations for many people, and offer advantages over commercial funds. A number of families who have donor-advised funds in The Trust also have private family foundations. Often, the donor uses a fund here to support causes and nonprofits that are outside the general focus of the private foundation. Many set up a fund with us to take advantage of our grant staff. Almost all want to join their giving with other generous New Yorkers and multiply their impact. And increasingly, people are closing their private foundations and transferring their assets to funds in The Trust, reducing the administrative burden and freeing up more money for the causes they care about.

Grant Suggestions. Please note we call your grants "suggestions" or "recommendations." This is because our board (or the board of any similar organization) has final discretion over each fund: you receive a full tax deduction when you make your gift—you can't maintain absolute control over its distribution. Grant suggestions must be for at least \$250.

Due Diligence. The Trust maintains a database of almost 20,000 nonprofits



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that we have investigated and approved; organizations new to us are added all the time. We review each organization every five years to assure that it still meets our financial and program standards. This allows us to process your grant suggestions quickly—generally within a week to 10 days.

How a Fund is Invested.

For donors who anticipate making grants with a substantial portion of the funds they establish, we offer a high-quality, low-cost money market fund. For those with a longer-term orientation, we offer a pool of both actively managed and indexed accounts overseen by our Investment Committee. This pool invests across multiple asset classes, although it is oriented mainly to equities.

For donors who would like a relatively high level of current income, we offer an income-oriented fund of mutual funds. Mary Greenebaum, our chief investment officer, is happy to discuss options with you. She can be reached at (212) 686-0010 x464 or mzg@nyct-cfi.org.

Administrative & Investment Fees.

All donor-advised funds in The Trust are assessed the same annual administrative fee. Because we manage a large number of funds, we are able to keep our fee low. The current fee schedule is enclosed. The minimum annual fee is \$100. Investment fees are modest and vary by investment vehicle.



Barbara Paul Robinson:

“As a Trusts and Estates partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP for many years, I have advised many individual clients about their philanthropic commitments and have also served as counsel to many of my firm’s foundation clients. Whenever a client asked me about establishing a private foundation, I always urged them to consider using The New York Community Trust instead. I wisely followed my own advice when my husband, Charles Raskob Robinson, and I set up a donor-advised fund of our own.”

Rules of the Road

To safeguard the deductibility of your gift—and our charitable status—we comply with IRS regulations governing donor-advised funds. Other policies relate to our bylaws and to interpretation of IRS regulations on charitable giving. Please help us by keeping the following guidelines in mind when you recommend grants from your fund, and always feel free to call us with questions.

No pledges, please.

We can’t make a grant from a donor-advised fund to fulfill a personal pledge or other binding commitment you’ve made. If you want to respond favorably to a charitable solicitation, let us know and we can make the commitment or tell the solicitor that you intend to recommend a grant from your fund.

Grants to individuals are not permitted.

No grants to individuals may be made from a donor-advised fund, nor can we approve a grant from a donor-advised fund to an organization that will benefit specific individuals.

Grants to public charities only.

Although we don’t make grants to foreign organizations, we do make grants to American nonprofits that support charitable activities abroad, including “Friends of . . .” nonprofits. We do not make

grants to organizations that are not exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Tickets and memberships:

Caution. The IRS does not permit us to make a grant from a donor-advised fund that will result in a tangible benefit to you, a member of your family, or a “disqualified person.” This includes events, dinners, or memberships that provide benefits or services. You can make a grant from your fund in lieu of tickets.

No fundraising events.

Some donors create memorial funds to which they know others will contribute. We are happy to accept and acknowledge these contributions, but we can’t allow fundraising events that use our name or the fund name.

A note about our organization: The Trust and Community Funds, Inc. operate together as The New York Community Trust, with a single governing body. You can set up a fund in either entity: the choice is yours and we provide the same service. Community Funds is our nonprofit corporation. Its assets are invested by outside portfolio managers and overseen by our distinguished Investment Committee. A fund can also be set up in trust with one of our 11 trustee banks, which charge a separate fee.



Making a difference

The Trust was established in 1924 to effectively distribute money left to us in perpetuity. We expect that all funds created here will be maintained for at least five years and at a minimum of \$5,000. And to ensure that funds benefit the larger charitable community, we expect each fund to make grants regularly.

If you are interested in creating a charitable legacy, a donor-advised fund can start it. Once your fund is no longer advised, any remaining assets will be used to tackle critical City issues. Or you can set up an endowed fund in your will, through a deferred giving plan, or add to the one you have. We invite you to talk with our staff about your options.

To learn more about creating a charitable fund in The Trust, please contact Bob Edgar at (212) 686-0010 x373 or rve@nyct-cfi.org. 909 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022 www.nycommunitytrust.org

Above: Donor Jay Talbot advises The Trust’s Healthy Food, Healthy Communities program and volunteers with the Isabella Geriatric Center, one of the grantees in the effort. Page 1: Bonding with Mother Nature at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a City treasure supported by the Barbara Paul Robinson & Charles Raskob Robinson Fund in The Trust. Photo by Ozan Killic. www.ozankillic.com.

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