HOW PHILANTHROPY HELPS

Build a Better Southwestern Pennsylvania



Independence

Foundations blend private leadership with a mission to benefit the public. Because foundations are independently led, they can act as neutral conveners – bringing together those with differing perspectives for constructive discussion.



Innovation

Foundations are frequently more risk-tolerant than public entities and they can use their funds more flexibly. This puts them in an ideal position to fund innovation and test new ideas.



Investment

Foundations can take the time to thoroughly study an issue, fill gaps in data, and learn from both successes and failures. Rather than giving to charity, they can strategically invest in long-term solutions.

Philanthropy Cannot Replace Public-Sector Funds

Organized philanthropy cannot fill gaps in government funding: the numbers just don't add up.

Giving by Pennsylvania foundations in 2010: \$1.43 Billion*

Charitable giving reported by individual Pennsylvanians in 2010: \$5.8 Billion**

Pennsylvania state budget in 2010/11: \$28 Billion

Philanthropy = More Than Dollars

Drawing on its knowledge and networks, as well as its dollars, philanthropy can partner with nonprofits, governments and business to develop, test and assess the most promising solutions to complex community problems.

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^{*}Source: Foundation Center