

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CIRCLE



*Join ~ Connect ~ Cultivate*



## Your Centre for Community Philanthropy

In 2012, the Community Foundation of Ottawa (CFO) is celebrating its first 25 years of working with the people of Ottawa to build a stronger, more positive and caring community.

### Our Approach:

We bring **donors** to the table as community builders and help them formulate and **realize their philanthropic goals**, matching their interests and aspirations with community needs and organizations, and finding innovative and responsible ways to give their donations lasting impact.

We take the **broadest view of what a community is and what it needs to succeed**. This is why our grants support everything from shelter, sustenance and care for those most in need, to recreation, the arts and the environment. While most grants are made to local charitable organizations, funding is also provided to causes that stretch well beyond the city limits, depending on a donor's interests.

We take a **long-term view** of our community. We identify pressing and ongoing needs and opportunities and invest in sustainable solutions, helping our community become resilient, resourceful, and ready for the future it's striving for – as an **ever smarter and more caring community**.

## A Quarter Century of Giving: *So Much to Celebrate!*

CFO is one of the largest of Canada's 180 community foundations. By collaborating with countless donors, charitable organizations and community leaders at all levels the Foundation has built an enviable reputation for providing flexible high-quality donor services, together with responsive and strategic grantmaking. The Community Foundation of Ottawa is one of the city's most respected philanthropic institutions, its reach encompassing 360 degrees of the community by:

- Connecting people who care with causes that matter for 25 years;
- Managing a growing endowment worth \$90 million;
- Providing fund management services and grantmaking advice to 700 fund holders and thousands of donors;
- Supporting the charitable sector through annual grants now totalling more than \$60 million;
- Providing local leadership by bringing people together to identify and address issues through such initiatives as Ottawa's Vital Signs and the Community Grantmakers' Forum;
- Being supported by a voluntary Board of Governors and top-notch committees, consisting of Ottawa's most respected experts in the areas of governance, finance, investment and philanthropy.



## Community Foundation Circle

The Community Foundation Circle is an exclusive opportunity to get a little closer to the Community Foundation of Ottawa, its networks and other community leaders. It is your invitation to join us, embrace a new circle of community, and help create an ever smarter and more caring community for the future.

Benefits of joining the Circle include:

- Networking opportunities with the Foundation's Board of Governors, some of Ottawa's most respected citizens;
- Invitations to at least one private CFO event per year;
- The opportunity to learn more about community issues, for those who are interested;
- Recognition on our website and in the CFO Annual Report.

### Why join the Community Foundation Circle?

**Build your personal and professional networks** - Meet some of Ottawa's most highly respected and engaged community leaders.

**Connect and share your ideas with like-minded individuals** – Driven to make a vital difference in our community and our world, the Foundation's Board of Governors is inspired by one vision: to be a powerful force to engender a strong, positive and caring community.

**Learn more about the CFO and support its important work** - Consider a Circle membership your first step in getting to know us better. Allow your voice to help shape how the CFO reaches out to the community over the next 25 years.

### Become a member

You can make your donation online through our secure website by clicking on the Donate Now button on the home page and selecting the Community Foundation Circle option from the drop-down menu. Membership payment options include:

- Five-year membership paid up front for a total donation of \$2,500
- \$500 annual membership, renewed annually over five years;
- \$50 monthly payment for 60 months.

On the final donation page you will be asked to enter your credit card information and submit your donation. Please contact us directly at [info@cfo-fco.ca](mailto:info@cfo-fco.ca) or 613-236-1616 x 227 should you have any questions about how you can make your gift.

*Join us ~ Connect with a new circle of community ~  
Cultivate an ever smarter, more caring community.*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the purpose of the Community Foundation Circle?**

The goal of the Circle program is to raise a modest base of predictable funding to allow the Community Foundation to sustain its current level of leadership work in the community. Launching the program will also give board members the opportunity to start conversations about the vital work being carried out by the Foundation, and how Circle members can contribute to creating an ever smarter, more caring community for the future. These conversations will lay the foundation for the new connections required to build and sustain our community networks over the next 25 years.

### **I'm confused. I thought the Community Foundation of Ottawa did not raise funds for itself, but rather acted as a repository or flow-through for community funds. What's changed?**

Increasingly, the Community Foundation is being called upon to get involved in important conversations around the future of our Ottawa communities. Whether it's playing a leadership role in the drafting of a City of Ottawa Poverty Reduction Strategy, participating in the Community Development Framework, providing leadership to the Ottawa Grantmakers' Forum, or providing advice to countless donors and local organizations, the Community Foundation is working to raise funds that will allow it to continue to rise to and expand upon these opportunities in a sustainable fashion.

### **Why should I become a Community Foundation Circle Member?**

You should become a Circle Member if you believe that the Community Foundation of Ottawa is a powerful force to engender a strong, positive and caring community. This is your opportunity to build your personal and professional networks while you align your values and beliefs with like-minded individuals. Please consider your membership as an opportunity to get to know us better. Your participation and voice will help shape how the Community Foundation of Ottawa reaches out to the community for the next 25 years.

### **What are the benefits of membership in the Community Foundation Circle?**

As a community-building organization we host a few events each year that are invitation-only. Your membership in the Circle will provide you with access to these small private events. These gatherings will also give you an opportunity to get to know our leadership team, an outstanding group of individuals representing our shared Ottawa community. All members will be publicly recognized on our website and in our Annual Report.

### **How can I become a member of the Circle?**

An annual donation of \$500 for the next five years will secure your membership. Your name will stand alongside other like-minded community builders who know that investing in the Community Foundation of Ottawa is an investment in a strong, positive and caring community.

