

AT-A-GLANCE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CENSUS 2024

Number of Community
Foundations in the United States
Approximately 909

Assets of Community Foundations
in the United States
\$177.2 Billion

Increase in Community
Foundation Assets since 2023
12%

The first Community
Foundation was created
Cleveland, 1914

The Foothills Community
Foundation was created
February, 1999

The Foothills Community
Foundation 2024 Assets
\$45,993,114

Community Foundation
Total Assets – August 31, 2026
\$64,312,834*

**Unaudited*

FROM the President

Virtually every area in the United States is now covered by a Community Foundation (CF). The number of Community Foundations in the United States can change over time as new CFs are created or mergers occur. But, given the maturity of the field, it is unlikely that the number of CFs across the country will change much in the future. The definition of a CF found in the National Standards for CFs reads:



A CF is a tax-exempt, non-profit, autonomous, non-sectarian, philanthropic Institution supported by the public with the long-term goals of:

- Building permanent funds established by many separate donors to carry out **their charitable interests**,
- Supporting the broad based, charitable interests and, benefiting the residents of a defined geographic area,
- Serving in leadership roles on important community issues.

The Foothills Community Foundation (FCF) is maturing as an organization as well. Our assets are growing, our staff is growing to better manage those assets, our grant distributions are dramatically increasing, our number of component funds are increasing, and fund holders are regularly adding to their existing funds in life and through their estate plans.

As we like to say, “Giving Grows Here!” Consider joining us in this philanthropic effort in the communities we love and call home.

Philanthropy Grows Here,

R. Dean Woods

R. Dean Woods

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

The Foothills Community Foundation connects generous people with local causes. We serve as a bridge between donors and nonprofits to make our community stronger, together.

“GIVING GROWS HERE”



GRANT Notifications

To reduce administrative costs, grant notifications are now sent by email. Grants also appear on your quarterly statements and in the Fundholder Portal. Please make sure we have your current email address. Questions? Contact Mary R. Pickens at 864.222.9096 or mary@foothillsfoundation.org.

DO GOOD Forever

Recently, a longtime fundholder asked me a question that surprised me: not “how much is in my fund,” but “who takes care of it after I’m gone.” It’s a question more donors are asking than you might expect.

Most people who give generously during their lifetime haven’t put anything in writing about what happens to that giving afterward. It isn’t because they don’t care. It’s usually because no one has asked, and the paperwork feels like a project for someday.

Someday is easier to start than it looks. A Donor Advised Fund at Foothills Community Foundation can be named as a beneficiary in a will, a living trust, a retirement account, or a life insurance policy. That simple step turns a single fund into a legacy that keeps making grants long after the person who started it is gone.

What you’re really deciding is who carries your giving forward, and how. Naming a successor advisor, whether a child, a close friend, or someone else who shares your values, means the causes you care about stay guided by

someone who understands why they mattered to you. Other donors choose a different path: converting their fund into a Designated Fund, so it keeps supporting the same causes indefinitely, with no successor needed at all. Either way, your legacy holds.

Our Foundation’s own history began this way. William Law Watkins’s bequest was the founding gift that made the Foundation possible in 1999, and the William Law Watkins Legacy Society carries his name forward today, honoring every donor who has included their fund at the Foundation in their estate plans.

If you’ve been meaning to have this conversation, I would welcome the chance to talk it through with you. It costs nothing, and every conversation is confidential. It’s how you make sure your charitable work in this community continues for generations to come. That’s the whole idea behind a fund at Foothills Community Foundation: to do good forever.

Mary R. Pickens, *Vice President*

WATCH US Grow



TONI HICKS joined the Foothills Community Foundation in August 2026 as Director of Accounting and Finance. For the past ten years, she served as Operations Director for the United Way of Anderson County, bringing over a decade of nonprofit leadership experience to the role.

A resident of Anderson for more than thirty years, Toni is guided by a genuine belief in “neighbors helping neighbors.” She and her family live near downtown, where they enjoy local events, parks, and trails. Toni can be reached at 864.222.9096 or toni@foothillsfoundation.org.

MARY PICKENS has been promoted to Vice President at the Foothills Community Foundation. Mary joined the Foundation in January 2024 and has focused on relationships with fund holders, communication with donors and advisors, and services to community partners and Foundation initiatives. She will continue that work in her new role.

A native of Anderson and graduate of Duke University, Mary spent twenty years living and working in the Midwest before returning to her hometown. She is thrilled to continue helping provide for the long-term benefit of the residents of the area in this new capacity. Mary can be reached at 864.222.9096 or mary@foothillsfoundation.org.

