

INSPIRING PARTICIPATION IN PHILANTHROPY

“Australian Communities Foundation was open to our needs and supported us through our ‘vagueness stage’. It took us two years to figure out what we were going to do and they were with us along the way.” – Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) Sub-fund Donor

EFFECTIVE GIVING

More information is available than ever before about causes, issues, pressures, charities, needs, investing and new ways of giving. Despite this, one thing that remains the same is that effective giving and purposeful philanthropy is still challenging.

The concern, particularly for people new to giving, is that it’s unclear where to get support or how to find information and networking opportunities.

ACF is determined to help donors make informed decisions that lead to meaningful impact.

OUR PROGRAM

ACF’s donor education program, *Inspiring participation in philanthropy*, is designed to help you engage with the community, gain knowledge, connect with other donors, build an understanding of the not-for-profit sector and ultimately, give wisely.

We aim to support you with your passions, highlight good grantmaking practices and connect you to philanthropic collaborations to maximise the impact of your giving.

ACF’s program of donor activities includes:

- Donor education workshops and events
- Sub-fund succession plans and bequests
- Donor circles and themed giving discussions
- Grantmaking support
- Giving circles and co-investment opportunities
- Advice and guidance for sub-fund governance and advisory committee structures
- A range of philanthropy consulting services including how to give for impact, engaged

philanthropy, measurement approaches and planning.

In addition, donors are able to connect with each other and become part of ACF’s donor community.

DONOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

ACF offers a variety of donor learning opportunities:

- One on one: individual sessions with ACF’s experienced staff to help donors identify organisations and projects that match their philanthropic values, visions and goals.
- Among peers: donor circles, giving circles, social and learning events provide the opportunity for donors to interact with experts and each other.
- Within the community: inviting speakers from the community sector and arranging site visits enhance donors’ knowledge about areas of need and funding opportunities. ACF regularly facilitates forums for donors to hear from leading experts about intelligent responses to complex social problems.
- Inside not-for-profit organisations: engaging community organisations through site visits, engaging donors in their events and our activities, sharing in their outcomes and success stories.
- Reading and resources: read *Savvy Giving* by G. Timmons, Donor tools within Donor Central and ACF Fact Sheets on a range of topics.
- Formal learning: throughout the year, ACF hosts seminars, workshops, giving circles, conferences and speaking events for donors.



FORMAL LEARNING

By being involved with ACF, you are able to access a rich array of workshops, forums and networking events to help you discover the incredible opportunities available for charitable giving. Each one provides you with a chance to meet with other donors, to engage with them and help shape and strengthen communities across Australia and around the world.

Philanthropy 101, Grant making & Managing your sub-fund

Designed for new donors and people new to philanthropy or giving who want to understand the basic concepts and processes within ACF and using their sub-fund. This includes, granting basics, fundraising guidelines and governance arrangements.

Good Grants

A more interesting look at good and bad grant making, factors that support success and tips for avoiding grant making failures.

The session will also explore grant making that supports capacity building in the NFP sector and how to support NFPs to thrive.

Impact and Collaboration

Donor circles: Sessions for donors interested in specific topics or issues. A chance to meet likeminded donors and participate in peer-to-peer sessions, explore and analyse the impact of grant making, discuss current projects and upcoming opportunities and listen to talks by industry experts. Current donor circles include Education, Environment and Wellbeing and Refugee and Asylum Seekers.

Giving circles: Similar to donor circles, giving circles help donors achieve a greater impact around a particular issue by pooling contributions from multiple donors and leveraging those assets. This is further enhanced by using the collective wisdom and know-how of the group.

Giving circles also develop partnerships with charities to create a deeper level of involvement for donors and the not-for-profits they support. We currently have an indigenous donor's giving circle focused on education and early intervention.

THE LEARNING PYRAMID

Adapted from: Siegel and Yancey, *Philanthropy's Forgotten Resource? Engaging Individual Donors*, New Visions, 2003

