YOUR GENEROSITY,
OUR STEWARDSHIP

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS AT THE DENVER FOUNDATION:
A SIMPLE, POWERFUL, AND HIGHLY PERSONAL APPROACH TO GIVING.

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Donor-advised funds provide a convenient and flexible tool for people to manage their giving and enhance their impact. Individuals, families, and businesses with a wide range of community interests find that a donor-advised fund is the ideal vehicle for fulfilling their charitable needs.

In the simplest terms, donor-advised funds allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax benefit, and then recommend grants from the fund over time. An easy way to think about a donor-advised fund is that it is like a charitable bank account: A donor contributes to the fund as frequently as they like, the fund is invested for potential growth, and the donor recommends grants to their favorite charities when they are ready.

Among regional community foundations, The Denver Foundation is the largest and most experienced manager of donor-advised funds in the Rocky Mountain West. We’ve been taking care of the future since 1925.

ON THE COVER

“I have been fortunate to find success in business, and my fund is an opportunity to give back to a community I care about deeply.”

Denver Foundation fundholder Ruben Valdez, with his granddaughter, Amber.
Ruben Valdez was Colorado’s first Latino Speaker of the House.
Barbara Grogan knows how to build solid foundations.

As founder and chief executive officer of Western Industrial Contractors, Barbara Grogan spent more than 22 years growing her business. She launched the company in the early 1980s as a divorced mom with two children to support. She knew she had knowledge of the construction business and decided to start her own. “It was a labor of love,” Barbara says of the company, which supplies and installs the manufacturing systems that help other companies do their work.

While celebrating the arrival of her first granddaughter several years ago, Barbara was in the process of selling her business. After taking care of her family’s needs and sharing the success with her employees, Barbara decided to create a vehicle for her family’s philanthropy. “Although I was deeply involved in the community while I owned my business, I wanted to create a legacy for the community when I sold it in 2004. I was eager to engage my kids and someday my grandkids in the practice of family philanthropy,” she says.

“I thought, at the time, that the best way to accomplish that goal would be to start a family foundation.”

As the sale of the business approached, Barbara’s lawyer drew up the paperwork to start the private family foundation. Right before the sale, she learned about the benefits of a donor-advised fund. Barbara tore up the paperwork for the private foundation that same day.

On the day she established her fund at The Denver Foundation, Barbara spoke with her children about the importance of philanthropy. “I’ve seen money empower people. I’ve seen money destroy people. I want it to be a positive influence, to help my children and grandchildren learn the joy of giving. We have been very blessed, and we always need to remember that much is expected of those to whom much is given.”

Barbara ultimately chose The Denver Foundation to steward her fund because she believed “the Foundation would offer my family the support to give wisely over several generations long after I am gone.”

Barbara frequently says that of all of her accomplishments, she is most proud of the philanthropic foundation that she has laid for her family.
Why choose The Denver Foundation as your partner in philanthropy?

1. Established in 1925, The Denver Foundation is the largest and most experienced community foundation in the Rocky Mountain West.

2. Since 1995, assets under the Foundation’s management have increased from $50 million to more than $800 million. Generations of generous people continue to choose The Denver Foundation as their partner in philanthropy.

3. We help foster “your philanthropy, your way” with our stewardship and expertise. We offer exactly the level of services, expertise, and involvement that you desire, designed in partnership with you, your family, or your business.

4. We specialize in gifts of complex assets—such as appreciated stocks, real estate, and interest in business entities—so you receive the maximum tax-deductibility for your gift.

5. The Denver Foundation has nationally-recognized expertise in charitable giving practices and legacy planning. We are members of a broad network of national and international community foundations.

6. The Denver Foundation hosts frequent events and programs for donors. Recent topics include how to involve your children and grandchildren in philanthropy, an introduction to impact investing, and an overview of international grantmaking. We also offer donor affinity groups and opportunities to connect with like-minded peers.

7. Our focus on community engagement and inclusive leadership ensures we deeply understand today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities.

8. The Denver Foundation is fully accredited by the National Standards for U.S. community foundations. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical and legal standards.