



GIVING CIRCLES AND THE DENVER FOUNDATION

What is a giving circle?

It's a community of people who decide to make a collective impact through strategically giving together. Some circles come together because of the relationships of the participants (like neighborhood or book groups that decide to add a charitable component to their activities); others form because of a connection to an activity or purpose or specific organization (such as circles that support specific schools); and still others form around racial identity, with community members wishing to connect and invest in their community together.

What does a giving circle offer?

Philanthropy is "love of humankind," and more broadly, compassion and support for all aspects of our lives and our world. People engage in philanthropy when they help others by giving their time, talent, treasure, and testimony.

Organized philanthropy offers people a way to invest in their communities, and giving circles offer people a way to join with others, pool their resources, and increase the impact they wish to see in the world.

What services does The Denver Foundation provide?

The Denver Foundation hosts formal giving circles that can be opened with any gift amount and can begin making grants when the fund reaches \$10,000. Circles set their own parameters and guidelines. The Foundation offers the following services for giving circles:

- The donor-advised fund vehicle to collect and invest financial contributions (treasure) to be later granted out to nonprofit organizations.
- Staff support for consultation on growing your circle, raising more money, and selecting and vetting nonprofits to support.
- Connection to other circles, both locally and nationally, for networking, ideas, and best practices.
- Issue briefings and educational opportunities to learn about local issues, ways to engage, and investments of The Denver Foundation, including a Sustainable and Responsible Investment pool and impact investing.
- Opportunities for co-investment that allow giving circles to leverage their gifts.
- For racial identity circles, the Foundation offers additional assistance through EPIC (Elevating Philanthropy in Communities of Color) and the Foundation's Community Leadership program.

How do I start a giving circle?

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I want to give my time, talent, treasure, and testimony (advocacy and/or ambassadorship) to help my community?
- Do I want to increase my impact by partnering with others?
- Do I know at least three others who might be interested in participating?
- Am I willing to share my gifts and participate in a collaborative process?
- Am I willing to make an annual financial commitment?

If you can answer these questions with a YES!, then you might be ready to start or join a giving circle.

If you're interested in more information, contact The Denver Foundation to learn more about:

1. Expressing your interests and goals
2. Attending a session on building a giving circle
3. Identifying your network of possible participants
4. Preparing your vision statement
5. Signing your fund agreement

What do others say about their experience with giving circles?

"It is very rewarding to be able to pool our individual resources to have a greater collective impact than our funding and volunteering would have alone." – **Barclay Jones, DAAP** (Denver African American Philanthropists)

"Participating in SPIN fulfills my desire to serve." – **Shani Hilliard, SPIN** (Sisterhood of Philanthropists Impacting Needs)

"We came together to start the Eagle Fund so that we could – at least in a small way – take what we'd been given and give a little bit back." – **Brian Abrams, Eagle Fund**

"Every year, five women in our group each present a different organization - we all walk away so inspired by the great work that's happening out there, and excited to give financial support to such worthy causes." – **Leanna Harris, The Giving Trust Fund**



Impact 100 (left) and LatinasGive! (right)

About The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation is Colorado's oldest and largest community foundation—stewarding a permanent pool of money contributed by local donors to benefit charitable causes over time. We help donors give strategically to make a difference in the community and we invest in helping improve life and provide education and opportunities for those most in need.



About EPIC

For nearly twenty years, through Strengthening Neighborhoods and the Inclusiveness Project, The Denver Foundation has invested significant time and financial resources to develop relationships, programming, leadership, and grantmaking in communities of color. Additionally, through its work to grow philanthropy, The Foundation partners with individuals, families, businesses, and other diverse groups to amplify their giving. The Denver Foundation is proud to continue our support of the existing, emerging, and oftentimes invisible acts of philanthropy in communities of color.

To learn more, contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.

www.denverfoundation.org