

Gifts work with Community Foundation

As we approach the holiday season, our awareness is heightened of those in need and of the nonprofit organizations serving our community. But there is one such organization that remains relatively hidden yet significantly and positively impacts the people and charitable organizations of our community. As chairman of the board of the Community Foundation of North Florida (CFNF), I think it is timely to tell its untold story.



Paul Sullivan

My View

types and sizes, with more than 90 percent of the dollars staying in our community. We are proud of the multimillion-dollar local impact made possible by the generosity of our fund holders.

The foundation also is helping more than 75 nonprofit organizations build endowments to provide security for the future of their organizations. Those 75 endowments were established with gifts of almost \$1.9 million and are now valued at more than \$4.4 million. The foundation provides the oversight and professional endowment-building expertise, allowing the agencies' staff and boards to focus on their missions. More than 40 of these endowment funds were seeded by United Way of the Big Bend to help its agencies plan for the future. What a great community partnership.

This year, the Community Foundation facilitated education to

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strengthen local nonprofit organizations. With funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and in partnership with United Partners for Human Services and the Council on Culture and Arts, CFNF recently presented a series of 12 workshops to reach local leaders in philanthropy and coach nonprofits about how to sustain their organizations in these difficult economic times. More than 500 nonprofit staff and board members attended the workshops, which were provided free of charge. Workshops included "Basic

Business Practices," "The Board's Role in Guiding a Nonprofit Organization," "Building Strategic Alliances" and "Revenue Generation Strategies."

Finally, before CFNF came into existence in 1997, there was no simple, cost-effective way for people to make permanent charitable gifts through a single vehicle for the benefit of a variety of their favorite charities. The Community Foundation now serves as the preferred vehicle for those gifts. The foundation has more than \$12 million in current permanent assets and several additional million dollars expected in deferred gifts. To date, nearly 100 people have chosen to create a charitable legacy at CFNF during their lifetime, and more than 38 others are known to have chosen to create their legacy at death.

The Community Foundation of North Florida is an incredible asset for our com-

munity. And, it's often hidden in the background. Thank you to the many individuals and families giving through the foundation and strengthening our community. Your current impact is much needed and appreciated, and your future impact is the untold story of tomorrow. And, thank you to all local nonprofit organizations serving our community and making it a better place in which to live. From all of us at the Community Foundation, we wish you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

CFNF is a nonprofit public charity serving the 10-county Big Bend area by facilitating and promoting charitable giving and strengthening nonprofit organizations. CFNF helps people give in perpetuity to their favorite charities and helps nonprofit organizations with grants, education and endowment building expertise.