

## **Philanthropy is a Way of Life**

At the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF), we understand that many of us equate being philanthropic with money. And while that's most certainly a component of philanthropy, the challenges of the past year and a half have also provided us with the opportunity to reflect on the many ways generosity impacts our community.

Indeed, generosity is all around us. We see it in the parishioners of our churches, who welcome all people in the act of worshipping together. We also see generosity reflected in our Catholic schools and universities, whose administrators, teachers, students, and parents have navigated a changing educational space with such patience and grace. And we see generosity in ordinary folks, just like you and me, who support nonprofits that clothe, feed, and give shelter to those in need.

Celebrating generosity in the present is important, but good philanthropists must also strive to live in a way that sustains these precious moments of hope for future generations. As Catholics, we are called to be stewards—stewards of our faith, of our loved ones, and of the blessings God has given us. And one way to be a steward of His blessings is through estate planning. Effective estate planning helps us give smarter *now* while meeting long-term giving goals over our lifetimes. However, nearly 70% of Americans do not have an updated estate plan.

No matter where you are in your philanthropic journey, something that all of us can do now is review our wills, trusts, and estate documents. To help you explore how you would like to be remembered, CCF has developed the Lifetime of Generosity Digital Legacy Seminar. This 30-minute interactive offering leads viewers through video teachings and workbook prompts to discover what leaving a Catholic legacy means to them on a deeper, spiritual level. On a practical level, the seminar also suggests ways to maximize the overall impact of your giving, ensuring that both your family and the nonprofits that mean the most to you are part of this legacy. To access our Lifetime of Generosity Digital Legacy Seminar, please visit [www.ccfnola.org](http://www.ccfnola.org) and click the button on our homepage.

When you are clear on what giving back means to you, make philanthropy a way of life. How do you do this? As I have talked about before, introduce generosity to your children and grandchildren at an early age, and then lead by example. Moreover, pick causes or charities that speak to all of your family members, and include your spouse and loved ones in the nitty gritty of setting up a Donor

Advised Fund or Endowment Fund. Finally, make giving engaging by visiting or volunteering at the nonprofits that you support individually and as a family.

Answering the call to be generous is personal. Whatever form your generosity takes, CCF is here to help bring your Catholic legacy to life. The foundation is a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) organization that spiritually and financially enhances and sustains the charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We offer donors philanthropic expertise, faith-based priorities, and morally and socially responsible investing. By giving through the foundation, you receive not only tax benefits but also the assurance that your gifts are effectively managed by our professional staff.

Giving connects us, and being philanthropic is a lifetime commitment that we build and pass along to our loved ones, to the organizations that we care about, and to our greater community. For more information on how CCF can help, please contact Executive Director Cory J. Howat at [chowat@ccfnola.org](mailto:chowat@ccfnola.org).



Cory J. Howat has worked in the nonprofit sector for many years, gaining experience in both programming and development. Before being chosen to lead CCF in 2017, Cory was the director of stewardship of the Archdiocese of New Orleans for five years. Cory is also the president of #iGiveCatholic, the U.S. Catholic Church's Giving Day, which reaches donors in all 50 states and raised over \$12.7 million dollars in just 24 hours last year.