

FIELD OF INTEREST FUND

By establishing a Field of Interest Fund, you have the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the areas of community life that matter most to you. Whether your passion lies in the arts, education, the environment, health and wellness, or another cause close to your heart, your gift will be directed to address needs and opportunities within that chosen field—now and for generations to come. With a Field of Interest Fund, you define the purpose, and we ensure your generosity continues to make a difference where it's needed most.

HOW IT WORKS



GIVE



GROW



GRANT

- Identify your area of interest as broad or narrow as you wish.
- Make a minimum gift of \$10,000 to establish a non-endowed fund or a gift of \$100,000 to establish an endowed fund. Gifts can be in cash, appreciated stocks, real estate, or other assets.
- We set up a fund in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.
- You may receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made.
- We evaluate needs and award grants to nonprofits and programs making a difference in the area you selected and in the name of the fund you establish. However, if you prefer, grants can be made anonymously.

WHAT SETS THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION APART?

Our program staff monitors changing community needs so that you can be sure grants made in the name of the fund make the most impact in your field of interest fund, supporting your personal legacy of giving.

You can add new gifts of any amount to the field of interest fund you establish at any time – and so can others who share your interests in the community. Endowed gifts become a permanent community funding resource.

HONORING A PASSION



William B. Mark was an engineer by training who, along with his wife, Caroline S. Mark, formed the A. Ward Ford Foundation in honor of Caroline's grandfather, Austin Ward Ford, a pioneer in the early business machine industry.

After attending an industrial laser conference, Bill Mark became interested in using lasers in the medical field. With the foundation's medical director, Dr. Ellet Drake, several other like-minded individuals, and a generous grant from Caroline and the A. Ward Ford Foundation, the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery was founded in 1981 right here in Wausau, Wisconsin.

If Bill was the brains of the Society, Ellet Drake was the heart and Caroline was the soul. She was a lady of significant means, which she used wisely and generously. She believed in the value of education and the benefit of research which she supported throughout her life.

The A. Ward Ford Memorial Institute Fund was formed by Caroline within the Community Foundation as an endowed fund in 2001 to continue to provide research grants on a national level. It is a legacy to Bill and Caroline Mark and their contribution to the laser medical field.

