



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
for Cecil County

Support for a Community Foundation in Cecil County

Over 30 years ago, a Cecil County resident set up a \$1,000,000 estate gift to a nonprofit organization; unfortunately, it was not given to any nonprofit in Cecil County. According to the estate planning professional from Baltimore County, “The donor thought there weren’t any nonprofits in Cecil County that could manage such a large gift.” Even today there are only two organizations in the County that could administer this kind of donation.

Although modest in population, Cecil County is known for the charitable generosity of its citizens and organizations. They willingly give to purchase a truck for a fire company, supply funds to purchase cots for a homeless shelter, or support a high school student robotics team enter a national competition, for instance.

Nevertheless, charity and philanthropy are two different concepts. Both are necessary for a thriving and sustainable community. Steve Gunderson, former president of the Council on Foundations, distinguished the concepts this way: Charity tends to be a short-term, emotional, immediate response, focused primarily on rescue and relief, whereas philanthropy is long-term, more strategic, and focused on sustainability.

Community foundations often fill these long term, more strategic needs by focusing on managing and investing large gifts and endowed funds on behalf of a wide-ranging group of nonprofit organizations along with a broad range of other services based on community needs.

In 2025, Cecil County became the last county in Maryland to be supported by a Community Foundation .

Using national research and input obtained over many years from local nonprofit organizations, the business community, and donors, the Community Foundation for Cecil County will focus on the following:

1. Centralize the receipt, distribution and investment of large gifts and endowed funds on behalf of all Cecil County nonprofit organizations.
2. Provide education and training opportunities and resources for Cecil County nonprofit organizations to manage their day-to-day operations and build their funding resources.
3. Advocate for local nonprofit organizations and promote the value of giving to support our community.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *for Cecil County*

P.O. Box 955, Elkton, MD 21921 • 443-350-1353
Info@CecilCountyGives.org • CecilCountyGives.org