



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations



*Celebrating Our 60th Year in 2012!
Together We Make Berrien County For Good. For Ever.*

Giving through the Berrien Community Foundation provides donors with the true joy of being philanthropists. That joy is the essence of the Berrien Community Foundation. **Anyone can be a philanthropist through the Foundation.**

What Is a Community Foundation?

- A tax-exempt public charity created by and for the people in a local area (e.g., Berrien County).
- It enables **anyone** with philanthropic interests to easily and effectively support the issues they care about—immediately and/or through planned gifts (e.g., estate plans).

Our Mission

To *promote philanthropy*, to *build a spirit of community*, and to *enhance the quality of life in Berrien County* and beyond through our stewardship of permanently endowed and other funds.

How We Accomplish Our Mission

We were founded in 1952 by William Vawter who led a group of caring community leaders. Through wonderful donors and volunteers such as our Trustees, Members, and committee members, we accomplish our mission by:

- **Building permanent endowments and other funds** and providing a broad range of *flexible and cost-effective donor services* (262 funds, \$2.8 million in gifts in 2011 (record in our history))
- **Investing and managing funds** prudently and professionally (\$23+ million in assets, maintained highest in our history)
- **Providing grants** to support a broad range of projects and programs that address community needs, with a focus on building a spirit of community/arts & culture, nurturing our children, and youth development and leadership (\$2.3 million+)
- **Serving as a leader, catalyst, and resource** (many collaborations)

Types of Funds Available to Donors

- **NonProfit/Exempt** (130)
- **Advised** (by individuals, couples, families, businesses) (97)
- **Field of Interest** (broad categories—Youth, Children, Environment) (13)
- **Scholarship** (19)
- **Undesignated** (BCF's grantmaking dollars source) (3)

Fund Access Levels

- **Endowed** (spendable only [historically 5% available annually])
- **Special Nonendowed** (invested for growth, may be treated like endowment, but all accessible)
- **Nonendowed** (invested in money market, all accessible, usually short-term special initiatives)



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2011

- **Assets were \$23+ million as of 12/31/11 (maintained record high in our history), 72% endowed**

28% Broad Categories (general and field of interest—like youth, education, women’s needs, health, sustainable resources, arts, etc.)

43% Nonprofits/Exempt

26% Advised (individuals, couples, families, corporations)

3% Scholarships

- **Gifts received were \$2.8 million—many into endowed funds (a record in our history)**

12% Broad Categories

37% Nonprofits/Exempt

49% Advised Funds

2% Scholarships

- **Grants approved totaled \$2.3 million—go to the web page (berriencommunity.org) for a complete list**

Building a Spirit of Community/Arts & Culture/Community Development 16%

Education 32%

Human Services/Housing 36%

Nurturing Our Children/Youth Leadership & Development 6%

Scholarships 5%

Health, including Environment 5%

- **Funds totaled 262—added 15 in 2011**

7 Advised

5 Nonprofit/Exempt

3 Field of Interest

- **Investment Rate of Return**—For funds in our main pool, our rate of return was -1.8%, which was above our benchmark indexes and consistent with our field for this time period. Since 3/03 (start date with FEG*), our rate of return is 7.7%, which is at the indexed benchmarks and our goal of 5% plus our fee plus inflation over time. We use a blend of 70% equities/30% fixed, adjusted up or down within a range set by policy, taking into account market conditions. With our sound investment policy drawn from the field, we are encouraged with the anticipated ongoing recovery over the next few years that we will continue to achieve our total return goal over time.

*Fund Evaluation Group (FEG), an organization with an excellent reputation with community foundations and other organizations with endowment funds, provides advice on our main pool. Our Investment Committee and staff oversee Fund Evaluation Group and our alliance managers (i.e., investment managers).

- **Administrative Budget—1.4% of assets**

For community foundations, this is not measured in terms of dollars donated each year, as it is for traditional nonprofits, since we have a significant number of funds and assets under management for which we are responsible. Therefore, a more suitable benchmark is a percentage of assets. **In 2011 our administrative budget as a percentage of assets was 1.4%, below the typical benchmark of 2.8% (FAOG Group).** The Foundation has spendable from an administrative endowment and also charges fees to its various funds to cover the administrative budget each year.

Visit www.berriencommunity.org or call 269-983-3486 for additional information