



Community Leadership Treatise

a working guide for practice

The Community Foundation of Lorain County exists to **connect people who care with causes that matter**. We make connections in three primary ways; 1) **building** donor's charitable passions into permanent legacies, 2) **investing** in our community through strategic grantmaking, and 3) **engaging** with our community to create a better future.

Our strategies and actions are driven by our deeply held organizational values of **integrity** (striving to always do what is right), **excellence** (striving to always provide the best service to all), and **community** (putting self aside for the betterment of the whole).

As an institution permanently anchored in Lorain County, the Community Foundation strives to be an open and inclusive vehicle focused on issues important to our donors and community. We craft endowed funds and invest subsequent grants spanning a full spectrum of issues, driven largely by the collective varied charitable interests of our donors. However, we recognize that the Foundation is uniquely positioned to provide leadership on issues of importance to our community.

Our community leadership, however, is driven by community needs, and those needs occasionally require the Foundation to step beyond a role as neutral broker of gifts and grants. Community issues are often complex, eliciting numerous points of view, and the CFLC may, from time to time, determine that involvement in such issues is important to Lorain County and consistent with our mission and values. As one of few institutions permanently anchored in Lorain County, we believe that the Foundation has a responsibility to work with our community to solve problems and make decisions about issues of importance. While we cannot predict what the issues might be or what actions we might take, we can provide the following as a guide for our involvement and actions.

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We will hold true to our mission and values as the primary driver of our strategy and actions.

We will engage in thoughtful deliberation before issue engagement.

We will be objective and information driven.

We will be transparent in, and accountable for, our actions.

We will be fair, inclusive and equitable.

We will be collaborative and a good partner.

We will promote civic engagement and civility.

We will deploy our financial and human resources as necessary and feasible, serving as convener, moderator, funder, catalyzer, engager, bridge-builder, and/or educator.

We will clearly articulate when we have an opinion and to define our rationale.

While driven by our mission, values, beliefs and opinions, we promise not to impose them on others.

We promise to work in, with and for our community to find the solutions to problems and answers to questions that have community ownership, involvement and commitment.