

# FACT SHEET

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

## Mission

To assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents.

## Description

Now more than seventy years strong, The Columbus Foundation is the *trusted philanthropic advisor*® to 2,400 individuals, families, and businesses who have created charitable funds and planned gifts to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. The Foundation's online resource, PowerPhilanthropy,® makes it possible for everyone to make informed giving choices by accessing valuable information about community needs and more than 600 central Ohio nonprofits.

## Assets

The assets of the Foundation are held in 2,373 charitable funds and 28 Supporting Foundations. Among more than 750 community foundations in the United States, the Foundation ranks seventh in market value of assets. In 2015, assets totaled \$1.75 billion.

## Grants

In 2015, grants from the Foundation and donors totaled a record \$176.6 million and benefitted more than 3,200 nonprofit organizations. Since grantmaking began in 1944, more than \$1.86 billion has been awarded to a wide range of fields, including the arts and humanities, conservation, education, health, social services, urban affairs, and advancing philanthropy.

## Grantmaking Initiatives

The Foundation's major grantmaking initiatives in 2015 included the following: investments in the ongoing innovations of United Schools Network (USN), which operates one of the highest performing public middle schools in Franklin County; the ongoing revitalization of the Weinland Park neighborhood, located southeast of The Ohio State University; and the Foundation's Summer Fellowship Program, which engages the next generation of nonprofit leaders by providing meaningful, career-related work for undergraduate and graduate students in the nonprofit sector.

## Giving

People from a wide variety of cultural and financial backgrounds participate in current and legacy giving philanthropy through the Foundation. Donors reside in 47 Ohio counties and 35 states.

In 2015, donors made \$126.0 million in contributions to new and existing funds and Supporting Foundations, and 156 new funds were created. More than \$2.2 million was awarded to students attending colleges and universities throughout the United States through scholarship funds established by Foundation donors.

## Future Giving

Future planned gifts known to the Foundation as of December 31, 2015, totaled \$910.2 million. Last year, the Foundation was informed by donors of 36 new planned gifts with projected value of \$61.7 million.

## History

The Columbus Foundation was established in 1943 with a \$700 gift, and led by businessman, Harrison M. Sayre. The Foundation's mission was to receive gifts to improve the quality of life in central Ohio. The first unsolicited gift was given in 1944 by the first woman to be elected to Columbus City Council, journalist Olga Anna Jones. That gift was for \$25.

## Governance

A nine-member Governing Committee of volunteers, made up of central Ohio business, civic, and philanthropic leaders, provides stewardship for the Foundation. Current members of the 2016 Governing Committee are Chairman C. Robert Kidder; Vice Chairman Matthew D. Walter; David P. Blom, Joseph A. Chlapaty; Michael P. Glimcher; Lisa A. Hinson; Nancy Kramer; Barbara J. Siemer; and Dwight E. Smith. Serving as President and CEO since 2002 is Douglas F. Kridler.

## National Standards

The Foundation is nationally certified for its organizational and financial practices by the national Council on Foundations and is in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations. It has received the "Standards of Excellence Seal" for Ethics and Accountability Standards by the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and currently holds a fourstar ranking (the highest ranking possible) from Charity Navigator.

# ABOUT THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

The Columbus Foundation is the *trusted philanthropic advisor*® to 2,400 individuals, families, and businesses who have created charitable funds and planned gifts to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible. Serving the region for more than 70 years, The Columbus Foundation is the seventh largest community foundation in the United States. The Foundation's online marketplace, PowerPhilanthropy® makes giving mobile, easy, and smart. Visit [columbusfoundation.org](http://columbusfoundation.org) to learn more.