



## The Donald F. Wood and Darlene M. Richardson Foundation Philanthropic Profile

This philanthropic profile starts to document the heart and soul of the foundation and how it will live out Don's and Dar's legacy. It will evolve as the founding board learns more about community needs and opportunities and refines priorities for grants. It is an internal document that can only be shared with family members and trusted advisors, but the ideas can inform public grant guidelines.

**Mission:** We provide community assistance for health and welfare, as well as supporting the arts and educational opportunities for specialized and at-risk individuals.

**Motivations:** The primary goal of the foundation is to carry out Donald Wood's and Darlene Richardson's legacy of generosity, staying true to their hopes and values while interpreting them to meet the changing needs and conditions in Northeastern Indiana. They were driven by their faith and were very other-centered. They both wanted to pay forward their good fortunes, helping give people and organizations a leg up.

Over time, we hope the foundation will be a place to both inspire and experience a giving culture in Don's and Dar's families. The founding board also hopes to write down or record stories of their generosity that future generations can learn from.

**Core Values:** The actions of the board and our grantmaking should live out these values important to Don, Dar and the founding board: community service, integrity, stewardship of resources, teamwork, and openness to innovation and non-traditional approaches.

**Focus Areas:** We will prioritize grants and other distributions to serve these:

- Places – per the foundation's articles of incorporation, grants and distributions are limited to "organizations with a substantial presence within Northeast Indiana." At this time, there are no priority cities or counties.
- Populations – agencies that support people with medical, mental, or psychological disabilities; people with cancer and cancer survivors, individuals and families who are low income or facing other economic hardships; senior citizens.
- Issues – arts, community and family services, hospice and visiting nurse, health

The people to be served are the most important focus, and more important than long-run attachment to specific institutions.

**Grantmaking Style:** The founding board shares Don's and Dar's love for getting out to meet people, listen to issues in the community, and see the impact of giving first-hand. Because of this, we have these preferences in our portfolio of grantees:

- When possible, we prefer to meet applicants in person before making a grant decision. We're interested in recommendations from colleagues, family members, and friends, but those recommendations must meet our values and focus areas.
- We don't want our modest grants to be lost in big budgets where we can't see the impact of our contributions. We'll support both small and large organizations but will not likely support large institutions such as universities and hospitals. We're not drawn to naming rights, capital campaigns, and endowments, but don't automatically rule those out.
- We'll support both specific projects/programs and general operations, with a bias toward the latter for smaller organizations and for social service organizations that tend to have few flexible resources. We prefer direct services and tangible projects over system change and advocacy work. In project/program grants, we prefer helping larger numbers of people over smaller, targeted services.
- We'll support both one-time and multi-year requests.
- We'll welcome innovative approaches and invite nonprofit staff to think outside the box.

Achieving and honoring consensus and family cohesiveness is more important in grant decisions than personal attachment to any grant or grantee. The foundation will not consider applications from organizations that will cause controversy or strife in the board.