

FAQ's for Donors

Top of the South
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Te Taihū

Your questions, answered.

Whether you're new to community foundations or simply curious about how your generosity could go further — this is a good place to start.

What is a community foundation?

Community foundations are local, independent, not-for-profit organisations that pool donations and invest them for the long term. The income from those investments is distributed out to local causes every year — so generosity keeps growing and giving, forever. There are 18 community foundations across Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Top of the South Community Foundation has been serving Te Taihū since 2010.

How does the Top of the South Community Foundation work?

We connect generous local donors with the people, projects, and causes making a real difference across Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough. Donations are pooled and invested professionally, and the income is distributed as grants to local organisations each year. Your gift doesn't get spent once — it keeps working for the community, year after year.

Do I need to be wealthy to make a difference?

Not at all. Some of our donors give a lot, some give a little and every gift matters. Whether it's a regular payroll donation of \$5 a pay, a one-off contribution to an established fund, or a significant gift in your Will, your generosity will be invested and put to work for Te Taihū. The focus is always on participation, not the size of your gift.

Who are typical TSCF donors?

Our donors come from all walks of life — individuals, families, business owners, retirees, and corporate identities. What they share is a love of this region and a desire to see it thrive long after they're gone.

Where does my donation go?

You decide. You can name the specific charities or causes you want to support, choose a focus area such as environment, youth, or arts and culture, contribute to one of our established community funds, or leave it to us to direct your gift where the need is greatest at the time. You can also change your preferences in the future.



Why give through TSCF rather than directly to a charity?

When you give directly to a charity, that gift is typically spent on immediate needs. When you give through TSCF, your capital is invested and grown. The income supports your chosen causes year after year — so your gift keeps giving long after your lifetime. It's a meaningful way to make a lasting difference, rather than a one-off contribution.

What if TSCF changes in the future?

Our Trust Deed ensures the ongoing governance of TSCF meets strict criteria — protecting your donation regardless of any changes to staff or trustees. We report to donors annually on their funds, and stay connected throughout the year via our newsletter, website, and social media.

How do I include TSCF in my Will?

Your lawyer can help you include a gift in your Will, and we have a Will Information Pack that makes the process straightforward. You can leave a percentage of your estate, a set amount, or what remains after providing for your loved ones. We work with you to understand your wishes and provide the documentation your lawyer will need. You can also add a gift to an existing Will through a simple codicil — your lawyer can take you through that process.

How do I get started?

Get in touch — we'd love to have a conversation. Whether you have a clear idea of what you'd like to do or you're simply curious, we'll guide you through the options and help you find the approach that feels right for you and for Te Taihū.

Your generosity can become a permanent part of our landscape — a legacy that lives on for the good of Te Taihū, forever.

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