

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

## **What is a community foundation?**

A community foundation is a public charity that helps to improve the quality of life for people in their local communities. Donors create and build philanthropic funds held and managed by community foundations. Guided by the donors' intentions, a community foundation ensures that grants given to nonprofit organizations address community needs.

## **What is Inland Empire Community Foundation?**

Formerly The Community Foundation, Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) is a community foundation that inspires philanthropy and drives lasting, transformative change in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and beyond. We work with donors who are proud of the Inland Empire and want to make a positive impact on the present and future of the region. We provide innovative leadership on the region's pressing issues and bring community partners together to develop collaborative solutions.

## **Why did we change our name?**

Community foundations are place-based, and in the previous name, it was a challenge for the Foundation to be fully known as an organization deeply rooted in our two-county region. Our new name immediately conveys a strong association to the IE and helps donors and major funders find us more easily.

Another was an opportunity to convey the bright spots that make up the IE. As a philanthropic leader in the region, we value the IE and know it provides a sense a place for everyone that calls this region home. The IE is rich in diversity, culture, history and economic opportunity. We're also home to innovative, resourceful, mission-driven organizations that work every day to transform lives in our communities and the region as a whole.

## **Who participated in the process?**

The rebrand was a collaborative process launched in early 2018 and led by the Marketing Committee that included IECF Board Members and staff. The Foundation partnered with a research firm and brand agency to gather data and explore ideas about the Foundation's future. Data from stakeholder interviews and donor surveys informed the process, as well as regular communication with our Board of Directors and staff, community members and high school students.

### **Why should I give through Inland Empire Community Foundation?**

We make giving simple, efficient and rewarding. With more than 75 years of philanthropic leadership region-wide, we understand the Inland Empire's diverse challenges and the nonprofits working to address them. Leveraging the Foundation's experience, resources, and a network of donors in the region, your charitable donation can have a greater impact. Depending on your financial goals, you can make a gift now or plan for a bequest in the future. Whether you wish to give to an existing fund or establish your own fund, the Foundation can work with you to invest in your community in a way that is meaningful to you personally.

### **How do I donate or partner with the foundation?**

Inland Empire Community Foundation partners with individuals, families and corporations who care passionately about improving the community and want to create permanent charitable funds. At IECF you will find knowledgeable staff who can offer you a unique giving experience tailored to your situation and goals. There are many kinds of funds – donors can give a little to an existing fund, or endow a new fund to help their community, a nonprofit, or a topic they care about, like children, education, or the environment. If you are an organization interested in receiving a grant, you can find our grant opportunities on the website or speak with a member of the grants team. Our Charitable Giving Team and Grants Team are available at 951.241.7777.

### **What areas of impact does the foundation support?**

Inland Empire Community Foundation partners with a wide range of nonprofits throughout the region and focuses its grantmaking in five areas: arts & culture; education; health & human services; environment and capacity building. In 2019, the Foundation gave more than \$15 million in grants, of which nearly \$4 million were for scholarships and education.

### **What communities does Inland Empire Community Foundation serve?**

The Foundation serves the two counties of Riverside and San Bernardino and within it these distinct communities: High Desert, San Bernardino, West End, Mountain Region, Riverside, Temecula Valley, Banning Pass Area, Morongo Basin and Coachella Valley. Within both counties this vast region has 52 cities, towns and rural areas, and a population of 4.5 million residents. Additionally, donors provide support to charities beyond the Inland Empire based on the causes they care about.