



*Thoughtful giving for  
stronger communities,  
better lives*

High  
impact,  
high  
involvement,  
low hassle

### Supporting Organization



**A Supporting Organization** is an excellent alternative to a private foundation. You select some of the board members and support the causes you care about most, while enjoying the favorable tax treatment, immediate start-up, and ease of administration associated with working through East Tennessee Foundation (ETF).

#### How it works

- We work closely with you to establish a Supporting Organization - a separate entity - in your name, in the name of your family or business, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.
- You select up to 49 percent of your board of directors; ETF assigns the rest so that you benefit from affiliation with a public charity.
- Because ETF is available to take care of any and all administrative duties, your board of directors can focus its attention on fulfilling your mission through the issuance of grants to the causes and agencies you care about most.
- Through your affiliation with East Tennessee Foundation, you do not have to be concerned about paying an excise tax or about meeting an IRS-imposed regulation regarding the amount of your distributions, as you would if you had established a private foundation.
- You receive assistance from East Tennessee Foundation in the form of local grantmaking expertise, reporting services, and, if you wish, investment management services.

#### Maximum involvement reduced work

Ethel and Dave Steen were about to sell their decades-old family business. Over the last couple of years, they had discussed using a portion of the proceeds to establish a charitable foundation. "Our community has given us our livelihood, and we want to say 'thank you,'" says Ethel. "But we also want to enjoy our retirement. I was surprised at the time, energy, and money it takes to start and manage a private foundation." The Steens wanted to make a big and positive impact but were not sure that they could consistently identify their community's most pressing needs. After talking to their professional advisor, the Steens decided to establish The Steen Foundation for Giving, a Supporting Organization affiliated with their community foundation. "Our son and granddaughter sit on the board with us, so we get the involvement and togetherness we were looking for," says Dave.

For more information about  
East Tennessee Foundation,  
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Confirmed in Compliance with  
National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations