



Foundation
Scotland

Make a difference with Foundation Scotland



As Scotland's community foundation, we believe that for every community to thrive, they need to be resourced to match their vision.

We focus attention on the challenges they want to address, understand the underlying causes, and build capacity and resources for achieving change.

All powered by transformative funding.

Welcome

Foundation Scotland was established in 1996 by a small group of people who believed in the power of philanthropy to create long-term change across Scotland.

More than 25 years on, we've built extensive experience working in partnership with donors to strengthen communities, distributing more than £150 million to grassroots organisations across the country.

If you're thinking about charitable giving, you can trust us to make sure your fund makes a real impact by tackling issues at a local level. We'll ensure your giving is truly effective in helping the people and the communities you care about the most.



Giles Ruck,
Chief Executive

"With your support, we can help communities build resilience, take action, create positive change and deliver lasting impact."

Giles Ruck, Chief Executive



[View a personal message](#) from Giles

How we make a difference

All over Scotland, local groups and charities have brilliant ideas for how to make their communities happier, fairer, and more sustainable.

We work with communities to bring these ideas to life, working with our donors to invest in community action that enables people and places to flourish.

The generosity of donors, the dedication of community members and our expertise in community funding are combined to enrich and enhance thousands of lives.



Please watch our short animation about [how we make a difference](#)

In the past 12 months, we've distributed more than

£18 million

on behalf of our donors.

66%

of the applications we received in 2021 were offered funding. With your support, we can help even more.



Our ability to combine knowledge, finance, and expertise to work with communities has supported young people into employment; tackled homelessness; reduced elderly isolation; grown community food projects; improved physical and mental health; enhanced digital inclusion; improved education and training opportunities and created community facilities, including village shops, energy schemes, community halls, green spaces, and a primary school.

“ We address the issues and build on the opportunities faced by children and young people, working-age adults, and older generations. We do this in cities and urban and rural communities across Scotland.”

Helen Wray

Head of Philanthropy & Quality

▲ Stella’s Voice in Aberdeenshire received a £15,000 grant towards a new electric van to help them collect and deliver larger items of furniture and household goods and support the distribution of food to those in need in Aberdeenshire and surrounding areas.



How you can make a difference

Becoming a donor and working with us is a personal journey that raises many questions enroute. Working with Foundation Scotland makes giving easy and straightforward. We have a wealth of experience and we're here to support you.

- ▲ To start, we work with you to understand your motivation and goals, leading to what you'd like to achieve with your fund. You may have already decided on the causes or organisations you'd like to support. Or we can share our in-depth local knowledge to connect your fund with charitable projects across Scotland.
- ▲ Then we'll agree on your preferred type of fund and get everything up and running in a time frame that works for you.
- ▲ Once your fund is set up, you may want to get to know the charities you're supporting or even make a visit. Or you may prefer to stay in the background. How much you get involved is entirely up to you.

Whatever your reason for wanting to give, Foundation Scotland provides hassle-free, cost-effective, and impactful giving opportunities that support your values, interests, and goals.

"I'm sure many people are put off philanthropy because they think it's complicated – it isn't. You don't need to be talking large numbers to make it worthwhile; even a small sum of money can make a huge difference. The setting up of my fund wasn't complicated, and if you're working with Foundation Scotland, they can help you."

Richard Forrest, Donor



▲ Many of our community funds support local people with education and training costs. Gregor Couper from Ullapool received a £1,000 grant for a safety training course leading to new employment opportunities offshore.



Choose a fund that's right for you

Setting up a fund with Foundation Scotland is like having your own charitable trust but without all the time-consuming administration. We guide you each step of the way.

There are several different ways to manage your giving, the type of fund is determined by the size of your donation, your interests and your timescale.

We work with more than 400 donors across Scotland, who contribute to over

250 funds

From supporting children's health and wellbeing in Aberdeenshire to tackling food poverty in Dumfriesshire, our donors address a range of challenges faced within Scotland's communities.

With your support, together we can achieve even more impact.

Advised Funds

Community foundations are pioneers of advised funds, providing many of the same benefits to a donor as a charitable foundation.

An advised fund is tailored to your needs, and is a flexible and convenient way to engage in giving. You can direct your giving by choosing your own projects to support, or we can source and recommend outstanding projects in need of funding in your chosen area and/or theme. You can name your fund with your family name or in a way that is personal to you, yet anonymises your giving.



▲ Peterhead Sailing Club received £13,822 towards the installation of solar panels, a battery and an electric car charging point to help reduce the club's carbon footprint and energy costs.

Investing your Fund

Many of our donors choose to invest some or all of their funds to provide a long-term source of income for Scotland's communities. If you're planning for future grantmaking, and want to build-up your fund, you can set up a Growth Fund where all the revenue generated is reinvested. Or, if you're ready to fund projects, then you can use the revenue within an Advised Fund to support the causes you care about.

"As a charity, we understand the importance of a sustainable income stream to deliver long-term support and impact. We've been working with investment managers for over 20 years and hold more than £55 million in Invested Funds for our donors"

Giles Ruck, Chief Executive

Since 2020, Foundation Scotland has invested the funds we manage in a socially responsible way, enabling us to be true to our purpose as a community foundation. Moving toward a stronger responsible position through investments means using our capital to achieve social and environmental good, not just the financial returns it generates for grantmaking.

To deliver our Investment Policy on positive impact investing, we appointed a fund manager, EQ Investors, that matched our intended approach and could fulfil our criteria. You can read more about this in **Investing for Impact** on our website.

Collective Giving

With the generosity of our donors, and their affinity with our ambition, we are not afraid of tackling challenging issues at their core.

Foundation Scotland has identified social issues where we know philanthropic funding can make a distinct impact and where funding support will be needed over the longer term. These issues will always benefit from strategic investment. Our Tackling Inequalities Fund brings together multiple funders collectively, to support community-led action to tackle and reduce inequalities.

We have invested our own resources and welcome other donors' collective support to build more substantial funds to support these challenges. By joining with others, you can help make a significant difference.



- ▲ Works+ received £3,000 for an employability project targeting 10 young people in the Scottish Borders. The grant enabled a specialist development worker to support the group on a one-to-one basis.

Legacies

You may wish to provide support for future generations by leaving a gift to Foundation Scotland in your Will.

You can leave a legacy to address future needs identified by the Foundation. Or you may prefer to leave specific instructions, identify a cause or a specific community you would like your fund to support.

Foundation Scotland can work with you and your professional advisor to ensure that your wishes are met and that your generosity will last for generations to come.

“Foundation Scotland is uniquely placed as we can receive instructions on how you want your legacy to be used, which means you don’t have to make changes to your Will should your wishes change – you can do this directly with Foundation Scotland. Your wishes become part of our permanent records and will be carried out when the time comes.”

Vicki Corbett, Head of Development

Enjoy your giving

No matter what type of fund you choose, you can be assured your giving never becomes a hassle. Our approach offers you complete support, including a dedicated Fund Adviser who takes care of the administration and responsibilities, leaving you to enjoy your giving.

Social Investment

In addition to grantmaking, we’re also experts in investment into social enterprises. We provide blended finance, a combination of grants and loans for businesses which achieve a social impact as well as a financial return.

We’re currently able to provide social investment opportunities across 18 areas in central Scotland. We welcome partners to join us in this approach, to help us expand our reach nationwide and provide long-lasting support for social enterprises.

“Over the last ten years we’ve invested over £12 million to help social enterprises deliver innovative and impactful solutions to local problems. There are so many more that urgently need this support to get started or grow, and this is even more challenging in the current climate.”

Chris Holloway, Head of Social Investment

“ The challenges brought upon Scotland’s communities by Covid, climate change and the cost of living crisis are putting immense pressure on grassroots organisations. Those providing vital services and support for their local communities are experiencing a surge in demand. They need extra funding now.

But we also need to explore the root causes of these challenges. We work with people in their communities to understand how these challenges can be avoided in the future. We support them to identify the changes and the resources needed for lasting solutions. This requires a different approach that focuses on prevention and helps communities plan more longer-term.”

Rachel Searle

Head of Communities & Impact

- ▲ Strathpeffer Residents Association received a £2,588 grant to buy a container for essential maintenance equipment for community volunteers in the village park.



Why work with Foundation Scotland?



Knowledge

Our team has extensive experience in philanthropy, grantmaking and social investment, and we understand the challenges facing communities. You need expert insight into the most deserving causes and communities' greatest needs. We can share our knowledge with you.



Connections

We have a proven track record in connecting donors with charitable organisations. You'll be able to reach grassroots organisations, some you never knew existed.



Relationships

We get to know our donors, discover what you'd like to achieve, and work together to maximise the impact of your giving.



Service

On setting-up your fund, you'll be assigned a dedicated Fund Adviser who's there to support you with your giving.



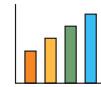
Value

We make giving efficient and cost-effective for our donors.



Governance

Every donation is in safe hands. We carefully manage all the administrative responsibilities, including due diligence on intended projects, oversight of investments and all monitoring and reporting.



Impact

We keep you fully informed about what your fund is supporting, and we'll report on the impact each grant has made.



Investing responsibly

We invest funds in a socially responsible way, not only for financial gains for grantmaking but to achieve social and environmental good.



Independence

Our approach can be more innovative because we're an independent funder. We have more freedom to direct support where we know it'll have the greatest impact.

▲ A £6,580 grant helped the Thornton Road Community Centre Association install a new storage facility to increase their space and provide power for the Kirkmuirhill & Blackwood Men's Shed. Electricity enables members to use the Shed during the darker winter months.



The Coram Trust

The Coram Trust was set up in 2017 by Richard Forrest. Richard had moved back to Scotland after his wife died and was preparing to make a new Will. Within this he wished to express his interest in channeling funds towards housing. Richard's solicitors introduced him to Foundation Scotland to discuss how we could support him with his giving, and The Coram Trust was established.

We worked together to set up a fund instead of a legacy. That enabled Richard to get actively involved in projects he wished to support and to see the impact his funding had. Richard chose to invest his fund to ensure a longer-term funding source for future projects.

The Coram Trust's primary aim is to support rural and urban regeneration, particularly housing and projects with an element of community ownership.

One of the key reasons Richard works with Foundation Scotland is our ability to find, and bring to his attention, new and innovative projects. Richard can choose which projects to support from a range of carefully selected and considered projects that resonates with his aims.

Projects supported by the Coram Trust include the building of Strontian School, which is the first community-owned school in Scotland, located in the Western Highlands, and is coupled for the future with affordable housing for families or older people; the introduction of free internet access for people at Parkhead Housing Association in the East End of Glasgow; and funding towards a Project Officer for an affordable community housing development in the village of Braemar.



“Housing is such a basic requirement for a productive and happy life, and the quality of housing offered to people who can't afford to buy houses has been going downhill. I have always felt that it's such an important failure in the modern state.”

Richard Forrest

- ▲ The Coram Trust contributed towards the design and build of the new Strontian school building in the West Highlands. Accommodating local children aged 3-12 years, it's also used by community groups in the evenings and weekends.



Karen Napier Fund

Russell Napier set up the Karen Napier Fund in memory of his wife Karen, who passed away in 2000. Russell set up his fund to support the MSc in Investment Analysis at The University of Stirling, the course Karen took when she pursued a new career in finance.

Russell's main concern is inequality of opportunity, which he feels he can have very little impact on, but by focusing on education, believes he can change people's lives by providing opportunities.

"I'm trying to do something in a tiny way about the inequality of opportunity by ensuring that the people who are smart enough to get an education get the funding to do so.

I wanted to know about every single charity in Scotland promoting female education. I wanted someone to tell me who were the good and the bad ones, who's efficient and who isn't. Foundation Scotland was able to support me."

Russell Napier

Initially, Russell's sole focus was providing scholarships for the Master's degree in Stirling, primarily to women, who were underrepresented on the course, totalling just 5% of its students. Then, in 2013, Russell increased his fund and expanded its reach, starting to donate to more causes throughout the UK and across the globe.



"Not only do Foundation Scotland take the paperwork off my hands, they help me find the charitable causes best aligned with my goals. The great joy of charity is giving the money away and then seeing what it does, not sitting down and filling in pieces of paper."

Russell Napier

FAQ's

How much do I need to start giving?

Any donation can make a difference. You can join others and give to one of our collective funds, which tackle issues and supports communities across Scotland.

Setting up your own fund starts at £5,000. Different fund types require different minimum amounts to set up. Please get in touch to discuss further.

Is there a cost for Foundation Scotland's services?

When you set up your fund, we ask for a contribution to support us in managing your fund. Foundation Scotland is a not-for-profit organisation, we look first and foremost to deliver public benefit. Our charges are based on cost, not profit. Contribution levels vary depending on the capital value and type of fund you select. Please get in touch, and we can take you through the levels of contribution we currently ask.

Will I receive updates from the organisations I have supported?

We provide all donors with regular reporting on the impact of your giving. We can also arrange for you to visit some of the projects your fund has supported.

Can I support organisations outside of Scotland?

While the Foundation's primary focus is to build capacity and resources within Scotland's communities, your Fund Adviser will happily support you with your giving in other parts of the world.

Can I make donations tax efficiently?

If you are a UK taxpayer, there are several ways to give tax-efficiently, including Gift Aid, Gifts of Assets including shares, and leaving gifts in your Will. Donors can take advantage of tax incentives to encourage more giving to charities. You can get advice about making gifts to charity from HM Revenue and Customs. Before making a gift, we recommend you get advice from a lawyer, accountant or another professional who can discuss your circumstances.

Let's talk

We're here to support you at every stage of your giving journey.

The first step is to share your vision with our Development Team. We'll work with you to identify your charitable goals and desired timeframes and provide guidance on the most suitable type of fund.


Ready to take the first step?

Contact us today:

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 @foundation-scotland



[View a personal message](#) from Vicki, our Head of Development.