



- one > Resources to enhance your community impact.** We help make your giving and community affairs as effective and meaningful as possible for your community and your business. You can learn about the latest methods used by corporations to achieve maximum impact with comprehensive community involvement efforts.
- two > Networks to learn from others.** We make it easy to meet and work with your peers at other corporations and foundations in our region. You can connect with, and learn from, others who share your unique philanthropic role within a company, and be in touch with other types of grantmaking organizations working to make a difference here at home.
- three > Professional development to expand your knowledge.** We supply the knowledge, skills and relationships you need to develop your grantmaking and community affairs skills. Members can take advantage of the Council's skill-building courses on grantmaking fundamentals, briefings on key community issues, programs on corporate philanthropy and much more.
- four > Regional information to keep you up-to-date.** We are your access point for information and knowledge related to our region's unique needs — information you'll find nowhere else. We keep our members updated on emerging local giving trends, new community developments, pending legislative action, local giving news and more, to help you make effective decisions and plan for the future.
- five > Opportunities to develop your leadership.** We provide numerous opportunities for your organization and your staff to play an important leadership role in the field and the community. Members can get involved in Council committees and task forces, participate in programs with nonprofit and community leaders, and much more.
- six > Visibility to highlight your philanthropy.** We bring your company's giving and community involvement stories to a wider audience through the Council's widely read print and online news vehicles, local media and other venues, to help increase your program's visibility. You can use us to introduce your corporate philanthropy to new audiences and raise your regional profile.
- seven > A strong voice to represent your interests.** We provide a unified voice to strengthen and protect philanthropy, representing members' interests with elected officials, the media, nonprofits and the general public. We communicate the important role of corporate grantmakers by supporting key legislation, building the skills of grantseekers and much more. You can lend your voice to this platform and benefit from our advocacy on behalf of all grantmakers.
- eight > Leadership to strengthen philanthropy.** Membership in the Council makes you part of a leadership organization dedicated to strengthening respectful, ethical philanthropy. The Council developed Principles for Minnesota Grantmakers, a code of ethics for grantmakers; corresponding practices for corporate grantmakers that offer practical ways to implement the Principles; and many other leadership initiatives to help uphold the public trust of foundations and corporate grantmakers.
- nine > A local presence to serve you close to home.** We offer you programs, services and events that are close-at-hand, and bring top national experts and expertise to the region. You can use a car instead of an airplane to participate in high quality skill-building and networking activities throughout the year.
- ten > Responsive, personalized service to meet your needs.** We get to know you, your organization, and its distinct characteristics and goals. You receive personalized attention from staff people who live and work in this region — and who are committed to helping your company excel in achieving your philanthropic goals.

Corporate Grantmaker Member Benefits

At the Minnesota Council on Foundations, we understand that corporate foundations and giving programs are focused on more than just giving for good... It's about giving for results, both in the community and for the business. Corporate philanthropy is concerned with maximizing the impact of all of its community involvement efforts — grantmaking as well as employee volunteerism, matching gifts, in-kind contributions, federated fund programs, cause-related marketing, sponsorships and more.

Large corporations face additional challenges with their philanthropy, such as coordinating the giving of all company locations, understanding the complexities of international giving and benchmarking against similar companies.

Smaller companies with newer giving programs can face challenges in trying to increase the visibility and profile of their giving, both inside and outside the organization, and to provide more structure to a giving program.

Whether your philanthropy program is looking for information on community issues, effective practices in grantmaking, the latest ideas in corporate philanthropy, or the chance to connect with peers and potential partners, the Minnesota Council on Foundations can help. We offer networking contacts, professional development opportunities, information and resources designed to help your corporate foundation or giving program operate more effectively for your community and your business.

CORPORATE GRANTMAKER TESTIMONIAL >>>

“ Council membership provides a very cost-effective way to access valuable resources and training, a rich network of colleagues in the field of philanthropy and community involvement and convenient linkages to national associations. We're fortunate to have one of the leading regional associations of grantmakers right here in our own headquarters community.”

— Mark Murphy, Cargill



“In the fast-paced corporate world with constant changes and limited time, the Minnesota Council on Foundations is one place I know I can go to get the support and answers I need to increase grantmaking effectiveness – in both process and philosophy.”

Carolyn Roby
Vice President of the Wells Fargo
Foundation Minnesota



As Vice President of the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota, Carolyn Roby wears a lot of hats. She serves internal Wells Fargo team members involved in community activities in a corporate culture where community engagement and volunteerism is valued and encouraged. And, she serves the greater community, helping determine Wells Fargo Minnesota’s approximately \$8 million in annual giving that address community needs throughout the state.

In the “lean and mean” corporate world, finding the time to do it all is a challenge. That’s why Carolyn values the support she receives from the Minnesota Council on Foundations.

“The Council provides a structure to stay connected to people doing similar work. It gives me a group of colleagues to network with and share effective practices. It’s a great repository of knowledge, skills and resources.”

Carolyn says she is always grateful for the many opportunities she has through the Council to connect with other corporate grantmakers. “I’m one of only a few people in my company who work on philanthropy and community affairs, so it’s incredibly valuable to have a network of colleagues through the Council who do the same work that I do and who understand the challenges I face and the issues I deal with.”

Carolyn uses a number of Council programs and services, but regularly takes advantage of issue briefings on specific community needs and opportunities.

“The Council is a resource that pulls together experts, conducts research, synthesizes and analyzes information, and helps connect me to other grantmakers addressing similar issues. There’s no way I could do all the original research by myself, and having access to this information helps me identify the most pressing community needs, ultimately helping us make better informed grantmaking decisions.”

“In addition to using the Council’s resources myself, knowing that I can refer new colleagues and community members to the Council leverages my time and directs people to an exceptional source of information.”

This is one example of how the Minnesota Council on Foundations helps corporate foundations and corporate giving programs. Please contact us to find out more about how your company can benefit from joining the Minnesota Council on Foundations.