Donors may establish scholarship funds to benefit students of a particular school, geographic region, educational discipline, gender or other designation.

Scholarship Funds Are:

PERSONAL: Establish a scholarship fund in honor or in memory of a loved one or name it to recognize your family, business or a particular interest.

ENDURING: You can make a permanent impact on the lives of recipients, who in turn are likely to continue the tradition of helping others.

FLEXIBLE: You can establish a scholarship fund now or plan a gift from your estate. The Community Foundation can accept a variety of gifts including cash, stock, real estate, business interests, personal tangible property, retirement plans, life insurance, agricultural assets and more to make sure you are maximizing your giving in tax-wise ways.

EFFICIENT: You receive tax benefits on gifts to the fund, including the possibility of a 25% state tax credit through the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program.

Financial Facts:

- The minimum amount required to establish a scholarship fund is $50,000. The fund must be endowed.
- You can grow your charitable assets as your fund is combined with other Community Foundation funds into professionally managed portfolios allowing greater diversification of investments and access to sophisticated investment vehicles.
- Each fund is charged an administrative fee based on the balance of the fund.
"Yes We Can" was the theme of a speech the late Larry Carter gave during his service as president of the Des Moines NAACP. While the words carried the hope of a more equitable future, they also reflect Larry’s powerful legacy of empowering others to dream and achieve.

After becoming the first African American student to graduate from the Intermountain School of Telegraphy, Larry went on to further his education at St. Louis University and recognized the doors that opened to him through education. In addition to serving as Assistant Vice President of Administrative Services at Norwest Financial, Inc., now Wells Fargo, Larry’s commitment to community went beyond the board room. As a spokesperson for civil rights, Larry served on countless boards and committees in addition to four terms as president of the Des Moines NAACP and 12 years as a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors.

Upon completion of his service as president of the Des Moines NAACP, friends and colleagues established the Larry W. Carter Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation to serve Larry’s dream of providing financial assistance to Black students seeking higher education in the community. “He knew the power of a college degree,” shares Linda Carter-Lewis, Larry’s wife of 30 years. “He also saw the bias students of color faced in obtaining their degrees and the lack of financial support they received in their second semester or year. He recognized the financial burden was often the final challenge that made students of color give up on their educational aspirations.”

Each year, the Larry W. Carter Scholarship recipients and their families gather for an inspirational evening where they connect with the scholarship selection committee members at the Community Foundation. Shares Linda, “The reception provides an opportunity to bring Larry’s dream to life. We get to connect with each student and show them there is a community of people standing behind them, supporting them and who are believers in their dreams. We have an opportunity to join with their loved ones to say yes you can; we believe in you.”

For more information about establishing a fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, contact us at (515) 883-2626 or info@desmoinesfoundation.org.