You can start growing your giving through a Community Foundation seed fund. Like a charitable savings account, seed funds allow you to grow your charitable dollars over time to build your legacy of giving.

How Seed Funds Work:

- An initial contribution of $1,000 is made to open a seed fund. A minimum annual contribution of $600 is made to build the seed fund to $10,000 over an approximate ten-year period.

- Once the seed fund reaches $10,000, it has matured to the point where you can begin distributing grants from the fund to the causes you care about.

- Gifts made to your seed fund are tax deductible. Gifts may also qualify for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program, a 25% state tax credit available exclusively through Iowa community foundations.

Financial Facts:

- You can grow your charitable assets as your fund is combined with other Community Foundation funds into professionally managed portfolios. This allows greater diversification of investments and access to sophisticated investment vehicles.

- No administrative fees are charged until the fund reaches $10,000. You can monitor your fund’s growth through the Community Foundation’s online fund’s management system, Manage My Fund.

**Give**

Give cash, stock or other assets to your charitable giving fund - they are tax deductible and may qualify for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit.

**Grow**

Grow your charitable assets.

**Grant**

Grant to causes you care about once the fund matures to $10,000.
Meg (Bolin) and Patrick Whitty both grew up in Greater Des Moines, but it was through careers in Washington, D.C. where the couple first met. Their shared love for their hometown created a connection and, eventually, led them home. “After our son was born, we decided it was time to come back to Des Moines,” says Meg. “Our friends have asked us if we miss the ‘big city’ and the answer is honestly no. We love being home.”

“We believe in Des Moines and Iowa,” says Patrick. “Moving back, we were excited to get involved, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted our plans.” While some plans were paused, the pandemic didn’t stop the couple’s desire to support the community. Adds Patrick, “As we considered where to give as the crisis hit, we were looking for opportunities with capacity and infrastructure at the ready. The Disaster Recovery Fund at the Community Foundation was prepared with partners and a plan. We were confident the Disaster Recovery Fund would maximize our gift and ensure support was going where it was most needed.”

Supporting the Disaster Recovery Fund led the Whittys to consider how the Community Foundation could help them meet additional giving goals. “We had been saving to support our giving, but we hadn’t found the right vehicle to put a plan into action,” shared Meg. “A seed fund with the Community Foundation felt like the right tool to help us be strategic in our giving. The Community Foundation has deep roots in Greater Des Moines to assist us as we provide support in the short and long-term.”

“We are so proud of the transformation that has taken place in this city and the work the community has done to invest in itself,” shares Patrick. “We look forward to being a part of what comes next.”

— MEG (BOLIN) WHITTY