United Way Foundation Fact Sheet

What is the Foundation?
United Way of Dane County Foundation, Inc. is a supporting organization of United Way. It provides an ongoing base of support to advance our mission to improve lives and create lasting change while also extending a donor’s legacy of effective, local philanthropy.

Why now?
Our Centennial Celebration provides an opportunity to connect with dedicated community members who’ve helped Dane County thrive and help us have a strong foundation for the next 100 years.

Why is United Way seeking endowment funds?
Gifts will allow donors to invest in our community in perpetuity as part of the Tocqueville Legacy Circle. Gifts will also provide consistent, steady support for key initiatives. Donors can ensure that operational expenses can be covered allowing 100% of funding for programming.

When was United Way Foundation incorporated and how much has it distributed?
Incorporated in 1993, the Foundation now has more than 100 funds and total distribution has exceeded $5 Million.

How does the endowment help?
Like gifts to the annual campaign, the vast majority of United Way Foundation funds are directed to the community's greatest needs and life-changing initiatives focused on education, financial stability and health, 2-generation work building pathways out of poverty.

What is the Centennial goal for endowment?
We want to inspire donors to invest in our community’s future well-being. One goal is to endow Tocqueville Society gifts to reach 100 Tocqueville Legacy Circle members. This is a minimum commitment of $250,000; many donors donate 25 times or more their annual support as part of their gift planning.

Where is the endowment invested?
United Way of Dane County Foundation assets are managed by BMO Private Bank.

Who oversees the investment of the Foundation?
United Way Foundation’s Investment Committee provides strong oversight of the asset management and develops the investment policies. The Foundation Board of Trustees ultimately is responsible for the oversight.

What is the endowment payout?
Our Foundation Board determines the distribution percentage annually based on a three-year, rolling quarter average. Most recently the distribution has 4% of available funds. Although the assets in the Fund will be co-mingled for investment purposes with other assets of the Foundation, the principal, income, losses and distributions from the Fund will be accounted for and reported to fundholders separately.

Can I name my fund?
Yes! We are pleased to honor community members, families and workplaces among United Way Foundation donors. Named Funds can affirm your kind legacy.