

WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A PROJECT WITH VESSEL CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

There are many advantages for generous individuals to establish an account with Vessel Christian Foundation. Individuals, who have been blessed financially, can accomplish their charitable objectives in many ways and in the name of Christ through the foundation. This Foundation gives Donors who are looking to establish private foundations or Donor Advised Funds with existing community foundations or charities a more efficient alternative.

The Foundation is in the form of a tax-exempt public charity and structured much like a community foundation with the body of Christ being the community. Though much of the money given each year will be used to support existing charitable organizations, the Foundation is not directly controlled or legally affiliated with any specific charity. The Foundation is also able to act as Trustee for charitable trusts and supporting organizations. By pooling resources for many charitable projects, the Foundation can support one joint staff and take advantage of the obvious economies of scale. When a Donor funds a project with Vessel Christian Foundation, their charitable goals become the Foundation's goals as long as they fall within the legal parameters allowed by the IRS and the policies established by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

There are several types of charitable projects in the foundation; Operating Projects, Giving Fund Projects (Donor Advised Funds), Supporting Organizations and Future Funding Projects. Individuals establishing a project can act as the manager of the project or appoint another individual or group of individuals to serve as manager. Administration services for the Foundation are provided at a very reasonable cost.

The following are twelve advantages that Vessel Christian Foundation offers that can help you make a difference in your world.

1. Donors can establish the equivalent of a private foundation with greater effectiveness and efficiency. The typical cost to establish a private foundation is between \$15,000 - \$20,000. In addition there will be annual expenses to operate the private foundation. Vessel Christian Foundation is a public charity which is not subject to the private foundation excise taxes or self-dealing issues and Donors receive higher deduction limits for their contributions than with a private foundation. It normally takes 4-5 months for a private foundation to be approved by the IRS. A Giving Fund Project with Vessel Christian Foundation can usually be established and operating in a matter of days. A nominal 3% fee is charged for money coming into the foundation and there are no other administration service fees to operate the foundation. Vessel Christian Foundation is a one stop shop where an individual can get all the services they need to accomplish their charitable objectives.
2. The Giving Fund accounts at the Foundation are extremely cost effective and provide complete administration services for Donors. The annual costs such as legal, accounting, bookkeeping, secretarial and other administrative services for a private foundation can be as much as \$25,000 a year or more. There is a small annual fee of 1% for administration of investments in the foundation projects and all of the interest earned by the money in the project account is returned to the account.

Unlike private foundations, there is no need for a Donor Manager to have a Board of Directors to tell them what to do or Board meetings to manage. The Donor Manager has the authority to make all disbursement requests and the Donor Manager or his designee will receive quarterly reports on all the account activity.

3. Because Vessel Christian Foundation is a public charity it is not limited by the restrictions that encumber private foundations. Contributions to Vessel Christian Foundation can be used to make benevolent gifts to families or individuals that are in need. Families or individuals can also fund mission trips or personal projects here or overseas from the foundation as long as they satisfy a charitable purpose. United States citizens can also receive a charitable tax deduction for money going to foreign charities by giving money through Vessel Christian Foundation.
4. Vessel Christian Foundation can serve as trustee for charitable trusts and supporting organizations and works with property gifts and other planned giving instruments. The Foundation has a complete range of services available to Donors to help them accomplish their charitable planning goals. The Foundation will also work with Donors who wish to trustee their own trusts.
5. Vessel Christian Foundation can be used to cover new projects until they are able to become self-supporting tax-exempt organizations. The Foundation can provide administrative services and receipting for new projects that are in the beginning stages. Tax-exempt status for a new organization can take 4-5 months or more for approval from the IRS. Setting up an Operating Project with the Foundation allows an organization to begin to operate immediately in a cost effective manner and provides an efficient means to discover if the ministry is viable.
6. Vessel Christian Foundation allows Donors to give anonymously to organizations if they desire. For some Donors the ability to make anonymous contributions to various charities is important. This cuts down on the fundraising mailings and calls that Donors receive from organizations looking for future gifts. With Vessel Christian Foundation, the Donor has a choice as to whether his contributions carry his name or are anonymous. The Foundation will also mail the check to the Donor if they would like to personally deliver the contribution.
7. A Giving Fund Project at Vessel Christian Foundation allows Donors to give substantially at the point of a tax need or at the end of a year and then make distributions to their favorite charities over a period of time. Many times individuals want to make substantial contributions at the end of a tax year or when a business or asset sells and then spread the giving out over the next year or several years. The Giving Fund project allows individuals to delay the distributions to charity on funds contributed and earn interest on the money while waiting for the appropriate time to make the gift to charity.
8. A Giving Fund Project can be set up to make monthly distributions to various charities making sure that the charities that are important to Donors are never forgotten or payments delayed. Many people prefer to make one gift during the year and then have contributions distributed monthly to charities, particularly for individual missionaries that they support. Setting up a reoccurring payment from a foundation project ensures that ministries and missionaries will receive their needed monthly support.

9. A Future Funding account in Vessel Christian Foundation can be a great recipient of charitable gifts from estates or trusts. Establishing a Future Funding Project with the Foundation or making a Giving Fund Project the recipient of charitable gifts from estates or trusts allows the Donors to designate their children to choose the appropriate charities to receive the money and to make those distributions over time instead of a lump sum distribution. It also is a simple process to change the charitable beneficiaries in the project file, instead of the formality of drafting a trust amendment or codicil to a will.
10. At Vessel Christian Foundation, Donor Managers receive personalized attention from a caring and experienced office staff that offers creativity in helping Donors accomplish their charitable planning objectives. The Foundation staff is experienced in both planned giving and foundation administration. The Foundation can become a valuable source of assistance with charitable planning and can assist with the legal work and documents necessary to establish more sophisticated charitable devices.
11. Because of its experience and length of service to the charitable community, the Foundation staff has developed personalized foundation materials which make interacting with the Foundation simple and easy. The staff have developed a Foundation Manual to answer all of your questions, specialized forms to satisfy IRS requirements, helpful procedures to accomplish even complicated Donor requests and accounting software which tracks each account separately and provides easy to understand reports.
12. Money in the Foundation will be invested and interest accredited back to the Project. Many Donors chose to leave money in the Foundation for a period of time before making distributions so that the project account will grow in value. Money in the Foundation accounts compounds in a tax-exempt environment and can often earn a higher rate of return because it is invested together with other funds from the Foundation.

Vessel Christian Foundation has been designed with the Donor in mind which is different from other public charities whose purpose is to accomplish the charitable objectives that have been set by their board and officers. All new projects and Donor Managers must be recommended by a Board Member of the Foundation before approval. If you would like to have a Board Member contact you concerning a project please call the Foundation office at (701)746-8321.