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## Support Community Foundation

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One of the best-kept secrets in Pasco is the Community Foundation of Pasco County, an arm of a 16-year-old Tampa Bay area organization that encourages philanthropy and provides much-needed support to an array of causes, including the arts, children's education programs, scholarships, domestic violence prevention and many others.

The Pasco branch of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is only four years old. It is just beginning to have an effect on the community by reaching out to nonprofit organizations and other agencies and building a base of donors who want to help fellow citizens and improve the quality of life for all. Its board includes prominent lawyers, business representatives and other leaders, including county Commissioner Ann Hildebrand.

People who want to become part of the foundation have several options. They can donate money, real estate, stocks and other assets, which will be managed by experts who also help participants maximize the tax benefits to charitable giving.

Donors can choose from a variety of ways to distribute their generosity. They can allow the foundation to identify needs to fund in the community. Donors can designate organizations to receive grants. And charitable agencies can set up permanent endowments, among other donation options.

Pasco's Community Foundation has outstanding potential, considering the many residents with big hearts. The foundation has helped the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Hernando-Pasco Hospice and other groups. But it needs more donors and assistance in identifying needs throughout the county.

Government agencies do not have the money to fund all aspects of communities. Nor should they be expected to. That's why philanthropy is so important: It's about giving back and helping others. The Community Foundation of Pasco County is an excellent mechanism to achieve this. For information, call (727) 846-1921 or visit [www.cftampabay.org](http://www.cftampabay.org).