THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST®

EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

CHICAGO'S FUTURE, YOUR LEGACY

MAKE OUR REGION'S FUTURE PART OF YOUR ENDURING LEGACY

What does it take for a region to thrive? It takes the unwavering commitment of people like you. People who truly care about the place where they've built their lives and want it to flourish well beyond their lifetime.

For more than 100 years, Chicagoans who wish to make a lasting mark on the city and region they love have turned to The Chicago Community Trust.

The Trust combines the gifts of donors, living and deceased, into a pooled endowment fund with one simple purpose: to provide flexible, evergreen funding to meet the pressing needs of the Chicago region and its people—today, tomorrow, and in perpetuity.

Our deep knowledge of Chicago coupled with our expert financial stewardship makes us a trusted partner to donors who want to achieve the greatest possible impact for the region.

A strong endowment means the Trust is prepared to address the issues that matter most now, while supporting a sustainable, thriving future for our region.

This future is possible because of the vision and generosity of people like you. A gift to the Trust's endowment will help build a stronger Chicago now and for generations to come.

YOUR UNRESTRICTED GIFT TO THE TRUST'S ENDOWMENT ENSURES OUR ABILITY TO:

Respond to the Chicago region's most pressing needs.	For over a century, the Trust has responded to Chicagoans' greatest needs—from the Great Depression to the Great Recession to the Covid pandemic to today where we are working to build a Chicago region where opportunity and prosperity are in reach for all who call it home.
Foster civic and social innovations that make Chicago better for all.	In partnership with our donors, the Trust has been pivotal in bringing many of our region's leading civic and cultural institutions to life: the Chicago Botanic Garden, WTTW, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and more.
Be an agile, permanent resource for good in metropolitan Chicago.	As an endowed community foundation, the Trust is built to last. Your support ensures we can always be here, taking the long view on our region's needs while also responding flexibly to meet the challenges of today.

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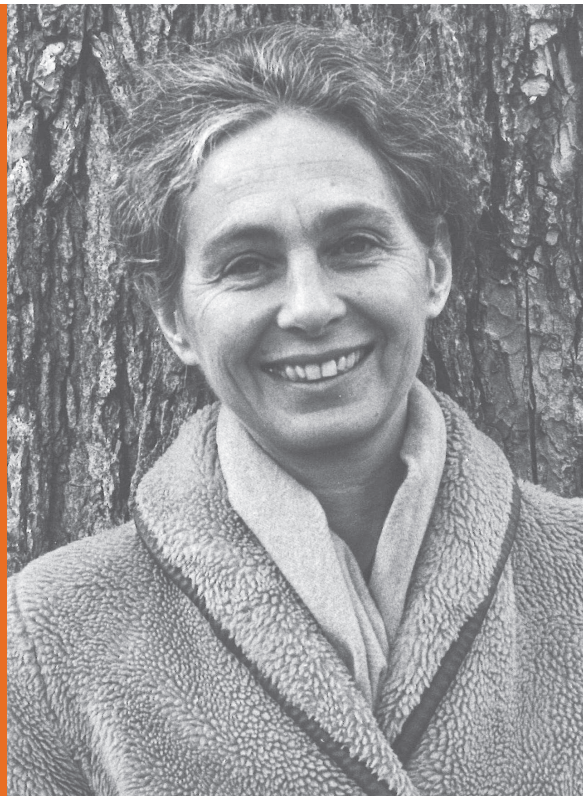
A DONOR'S LASTING GIFT TO CHICAGO

Joan Novick was a longtime Hyde Park resident and a pioneer in advertising. Joan deeply loved Chicago and decided that making a generous gift to the Trust's endowment was the best way to continue to impact the lives of her fellow Chicagoans.

While Joan had many causes that were dear to her heart, she decided that an unrestricted gift would allow the Trust maximum flexibility to meet the needs of future generations. When she died on September 25, 2022, Joan made the Trust the sole beneficiary of her estate with a gift of approximately $2.2 million.

By entrusting her legacy to the Trust's stewardship, Joan ensured that nonprofits in the city she called home for over 50 years will be able to support their communities for years to come.



A STEADY IMPACT ON CHICAGO'S NONPROFITS

Thanks to the generosity of the Trust's legacy donors, in the last fiscal year, the Trust was able to make $48 million in discretionary grants to Chicago-area nonprofits serving a wide range of communities and purposes. Endowment funds are prudently managed with the goal of growing the principal to increase community grant making annually.

THE 1915 SOCIETY: YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR REGION'S FUTURE

Named for the year the Trust was established, the 1915 Society honors the generous and visionary philanthropists who have included the Trust in their estate plans. Members are invited to exclusive events and seminars, including the annual 1915 Society luncheon.

ABOUT THE TRUST

For over 100 years, Chicagoans who are committed to our region's future have entrusted their charitable resources and visions to The Chicago Community Trust. The Trust's philanthropic expertise, partnerships, and deep knowledge of nonprofits serving the region ensures your generosity and values will live on through expert stewardship.

CONNECT WITH US.

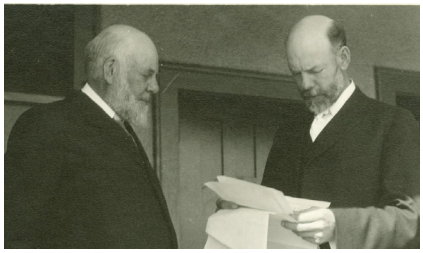
The Trust is eager to learn more about your philanthropic goals and to discuss how we can help you make a lasting impact on the region you love.

Please contact our gift planning team to start a conversation:

giftplanning@cct.org

OUR JOURNEY — TOGETHER

100+ YEARS OF PARTNERING WITH DONORS TO BUILD A MORE VITAL AND VIBRANT CHICAGO REGION



1915
The Harris family of Harris Bank makes a visionary gift of $200,000 to found the Trust.

1916
Through the Harris family's investment, the Trust makes its first grant—a $5,000 award to United Charities of Chicago.

1924
James A. Patten gives the Trust its first significant bequest—shares of stock and a parcel of land at the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street on which stands the University Club, for whom the Trust continues to act as landlord.

1932
The Trust is tapped to spearhead relief campaigns raising millions of dollars for Chicagoans in need during the Great Depression.

1964
Pharmaceutical executive John G. Searle makes the single largest gift in the Trust's history, fueling decades of groundbreaking investments in biological science, health, education, and more.

The Trust granted $250,000—nearly $2 million today—to the Chicago Horticultural Society to develop the Chicago Botanic Garden on a 300-acre tract of land at the northern edge of Cook County. Philanthropist Mary Runnells partnered with the Trust to help fund the development of the garden both during her life and through her estate.

1984
Suburban teacher Kathleen Busse honors her late husband with a seed gift establishing the Trust's Basic Human Needs Program.

2008
The Trust launches Unity Fund as a vehicle for donors to support the critical needs of fellow Chicagoans during the Great Recession. Our donors' generosity to Unity Fund continues to this day.

2015
We celebrate a century of impact, including $2 billion in grants to Chicago nonprofits over our first 100 years. Marshall Field V leads local philanthropists in making legacy commitments to the Trust's endowment so we can build an even stronger region over our next 100 years.

TODAY
The Trust and our family of donors continue to play an integral role in shaping the Chicago region's future. With your support, we can do even more.

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