**THE TRADITION OF PRIVATE
INVESTMENT FOR PUBLIC GOOD**

It is no secret that the United States is increasingly racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse. This fact is, unfortunately, all too frequently cited in order to highlight differences that disconnect us. But a fundamental feature of American life since the very beginning of our country has been the shared instinct to come together—despite our backgrounds or beliefs, to work for the common good.

This tradition of coming together to invest in causes that are important to our communities is reflected in the work of foundations country. From modestly endowed organizations established by families to support churches or schools, to large institutions dedicated to tackling the most controversial and cutting-edge issues of the day, philanthropy has long been a critical stakeholder for investing in solutions that benefit all of us—whoever and whatever we may be.

In **[NAME OF YOUR REGION/CITY]**, foundations like **[NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION]** are making investments that translate local priorities into community progress. **[INSERT A BRIEF EXAMPLE OF A PROGRAM IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY HERE. 1-2 SENTENCES LONG.]**

While some foundations’ investments are significant in size and visibility, the work of many, many others is smaller and quieter; but no less valuable. All foundations, regardless of size, devote private resources to the public benefit. This, too, is a part of American life that is unique in its scope and scale**. [INSERT A BRIEF EXAMPLE OF A PROGRAM IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY HERE. 1-2 SENTENCES LONG.]**

This week, I will join philanthropic leaders from across the country in Washington, D.C., for Philanthropy Week in Washington. We will gather to highlight the role of philanthropy in our communities, our country, and across the globe. Giving voice to the priorities laid out in the Council on Foundations’ 2016 Philanthropy Platform, we will remind lawmakers that the philanthropic community can be a dynamic partner for them, one that very efficiently and effectively puts its private and often hard-earned resources to work for the public good.

We will also ask policymakers to take concrete actions that will strengthen and promote our country’s philanthropic traditions. We will urge them to create a climate in which continuing engagement with philanthropic organizations is integrated into federal operating practices, and ask them to prioritize policymaking that protects philanthropic endowments in recognition that these endowments are critical to sustain communities. We will also ask them to demonstrate their support of philanthropy by joining and becoming an active member of the House or Senate Philanthropy Caucuses.

Elected leaders in Washington and **[YOUR REGION OR CITY]** can join our efforts by supporting public policy that acknowledges the legacy and tradition of giving and supports its achievements in the future. You can join our efforts by urging your elected officials to support public policy that recognizes this American tradition of contributing to the common good and will strengthen this American legacy far into the future.