



The Greater Clark Foundation

AMBITION FOR A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

The Greater Clark Foundation (GCF) is a health legacy foundation located in Winchester, KY. At the nexus of two storied regions in KY – where Appalachia meets the Bluegrass - GCF aspires to build on these legacies toward a region rich in opportunities for all, while recognizing that the weight of history is unevenly distributed. The Greater Clark Foundation provides aspirational leadership to the region by inspiring vision and action for a compelling future. GCF acts as a catalyst, connector and convener to create the conditions in which all people can thrive.

GCF's work is rooted in a set of **core beliefs**:

- We believe the fate of all people is woven together. We have an obligation to create a society that enables collective well-being and produces equitable power, access, opportunities, and outcomes, regardless of the social conditions one is born into. Historical imbalances of power have led to disproportionate outcomes based on a variety of social factors including race, gender, social class and geography. We define equity as the full inclusion of all people into a society in which everyone can participate and prosper.*
- We believe it is possible to unlearn the systems, forces and habits that have produced disproportionate and unjust outcomes. Our integrity as community builders requires us to look deep within ourselves, our communities, our nation and our world to reconcile truthfully and realistically the systems of power that prevent people from reaching their full potential.
- We believe institutional philanthropy should be a force for good in an increasingly complex world. For this reason, GCF invests in strengthening underlying community conditions and social determinants of health.
- We believe GCF's strength lies not only in our endowment, but in our relationships, actions and influence. For this reason, GCF will use all the tools available to achieve our aims.
- We believe in the abundant capacity of people to create communities they cherish. For this reason, GCF favors investments in people over projects.
- We believe in leading with love. The word philanthropy means "love of humanity." Love, rightly understood, is expressed both as care for one another and as courageous action to correct injustice, including dismantling systems of injustice.

*GCF has adopted the Southeastern Council of Foundation's definition of equity: We define equity as the full inclusion of all people into a society in which everyone can participate and prosper. In an equitable society, everyone, regardless of the circumstances of birth or upbringing, is treated justly and fairly by its institutions and systems. To promote equity in the South and elsewhere, philanthropy must first acknowledge the historical roots of inequity, particularly caused by racism, and the present-day systems that perpetuate it. It must then use its resources to spark transformation that allows all people to reach their full potential, unhindered by hatred, bigotry, exclusion or discrimination.