



Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation



Client Case Study

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About GRACF

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) was established in 1994 by concerned business and community leaders to help local citizens contribute to the community. Our purpose is to enhance giving and philanthropy in all sectors of the community. The GRACF manages a collection of funds initiated by individuals, corporations, and community service organizations to benefit the geographical area around Itasca County, Minnesota.

Advantages of GLM

- Scholarship program administrative time reduced by 40% through move to online procedures
- Eliminated paper application forms for most grant and scholarship programs
- Increased communication and collaboration with nonprofit grantee organizations
- Foundation staff able to focus more time on strategic activities through the elimination of many tedious, time-consuming tasks

Previous Grant Process

Before Foundant, much of our time was spent processing the many grant and scholarship applications that we receive every year. The grants management process was paper intensive and time consuming. We needed to find a way to decrease the amount of paper used and the amount of inefficient use of time.

Foundant GLM Implementation

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation has a whole new outlook on grants and scholarships. Originally, the foundation looked to Foundant for an online scholarship application solution. Excited about being able to offer this electronic generation for online scholarships the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation launched their online applications last year. Our initial intent was to have the first year as a "transition" time between paper and electronic formats. This year, we are not messing with paper at all. Last year, I was at least 40% more productive. This year, with the additional upgrades and export capabilities, I am looking at saving at least 60% of my time with scholarship administration. Anyone who administers scholarships understands how huge this is.

Why Foundant?

I can speak at length about the benefits for the foundation and our grantees through efficiently administering our high volume programs using Foundant's Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM). Foundant has also played a major role in improving the Foundation's communication and relationship-building capacities. It's amazing how much time we have to do real foundation work when we're not pushing paper.