



Martin Family Foundation



Client Case

Written by: Cindy Martin Beers, Executive Director

About Martin Family Foundation

Martin Family Foundation was founded in 2001 and currently employs 2 part-time staff members. We are dedicated to supporting programs that build family values and create assets for communities. We concentrate our resources in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado within areas that impact Children, Religion, Education and Health & Human Services.

Previous Grant Process

As a part-time employee working out of my home, the time I spend in the office needs to be productive and efficient. Before using Foundant, preparation for board meetings included copying applications, collating, and mailing board packets; all very tedious work. The amount of paper and filing that was required with the "old method" was becoming problematic since the foundation office is in our home and the average grant application required 1 inch of paperwork. Finding the space to file all of this paperwork was becoming a real problem. In addition to the mounting paper trail, it was difficult to track applications and grantees. Follow-up at the end of a grant period was a requirement of each grantee, but it was often left up to the grantee to instigate that communication. Follow-up reports that were received were often annual reports that had little to do with the actual funded grant. We also found it challenging to analyze the types and amounts of grants awarded. There was no easy way to track this information that was not labor intensive.

Foundant GLM Implementation

Using Foundant Technologies has allowed each board member remote access to the applications so that they may review and evaluate them on their own time. Completing the board evaluations has standardized a portion of the review process and it ensures that each board member takes the time to review each application in its entirety prior to the meeting. Discussions during the meeting are more concise, leading to shorter meetings, a happier board and improved staff productivity. In addition to increased accountability and more efficient board meetings, the time it takes me to prepare for board meetings has decreased dramatically. The paper trail has been reduced which saves our environment and minimizes the amount of storage required in my home office. All of this has occurred while improving the efficiency and integrity of our record keeping. I couldn't be happier with the outcome of adopting the Grant Lifecycle Manager software.

Advantages of GLM

- Eliminated costly distribution of application packets to board members distributed across three states
- Standardized grant application process thereby improving the consistency of applications
- Standardized evaluation criteria helping to streamline the decision making process
- Increased accountability of board members involved in funding decisions