About West Family Foundation

Founded in 2006, the mission of the West Family Foundation is to give back to the community and to provide a better opportunity in life for children and families who reside in Southern Oregon. We do this by providing grants for educational purposes, human services and other charitable causes.

Advantages of GLM

- Eliminated duplicate data entry for foundation staff and applicant organization staff

- Ensured data accuracy and created a complete historical record of applicant organizations

- Accommodated the hardcopy vs. online review preferences of board and committee evaluators

Previous Grant Process

The West Family Foundation was looking for an online grants management system that would meet our administrative needs in terms of record keeping & database management. We also needed a system that was easy and efficient for applicants. The overarching challenge that made our previous grant process difficult to manage revolved around getting all the applicant organization information in one place. Two activities we wanted to simplify were:

1) Foundation staff had to cut and paste information from the online application into the grant management software, creating duplicated efforts for both foundation and applicant organization staff.

2) Electronic storage of grant applications and awards was not efficient for day-to-day use, so we were still using a paper filing system for many aspects of grantmaking and record keeping.

Foundant GLM Implementation

The biggest benefit we have seen as a result of implementing Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) is the ability to have a complete historical record for an organization in one place. This "one-stop-shop" has ensured accuracy of information, prevented needless double entry of data by foundation and applicant organization staff, and streamlined our grantmaking process.

Welcome Surprise

The most welcome surprise we have experienced from implementing Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) is the flexibility the system has to accommodate our changing needs. GLM is much more user friendly than we expected. It is very easy to add or change application questions, system features, and other elements. Therefore, we are finding that the system is being used for more than we originally expected.

The original thought was that the system was a functional piece of industry specific software that would assist staff in managing the grant process. What we have discovered is that yes, the system does everything functionally we hoped it would. But GLM also accommodates the various needs of Board and Grants Committee members. Those individuals who want to view and score applications on paper can still get all of the information in hardcopy format, and the needs of those who like to review materials from their laptop, iPhone, etc. can be accommodated as well.