



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED
FOR
COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS**

*CFES honored for excellence
in management and operations*

Officers of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore proudly display the seal that signifies the Foundation has been confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. Pictured (l to r) are: seated – Gregory Stein, Chair; Joseph Ollinger, Treasurer; standing – Art Cooley, Vice-Chair; and Lou Taylor, Secretary.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(July 31, 2006) – The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore has been recognized by the Council On Foundations for excellence in its management and operations. The organizational and financial practices of the local foundation have been found in accordance with all National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

In order to achieve confirmation of compliance with the National Standards, community foundations must undergo an extensive review of their organizational and financial policies and procedures. The review is performed by trained, experienced community foundation practitioners.

“Adopting and adhering to high standards is the best way we can demonstrate our ongoing commitment to maintaining the trust of our donors and the entire community,” said Spicer Bell, Foundation President. “We are committed to reaffirming the transparency and integrity that are the hallmarks of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES). We are honored to have our efforts recognized by the Council On Foundations.”

The CFES was founded in 1984 to serve Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties as a conduit to encourage local charitable giving. The Foundation is governed by a 25-member board of local community leaders.

During fiscal 2006 the Community Foundation distributed \$2.6 million through 844 grants to nonprofit and faith based organizations. CFES is the largest non-governmental source of support for nonprofit organizations in Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore empowers donors to make a profound difference in the quality of human and community life, today and tomorrow. The Foundation believes in the power of philanthropy to change the lives of people and communities.

As a community foundation, CFES makes grants and provides leadership in five key areas: arts and culture, health and human services, education, historical preservation, and the environment. The Foundation also provides community leadership through local initiatives, charitable partnerships and nonprofit support programs.

The Council on Foundations and leaders of the community foundation field created National Standards in 2000 to aid community foundations in establishing legal, ethical and effective operational practices that would show the foundations' transparency and financial responsibility in light of the increased public scrutiny of foundation practices.

Intended both as a blueprint for internal organizational development and as a tangible set of benchmarks for external assessment of performance, the 43 National Standards address six key areas of community foundation operations:

- Mission, Structure and Governance, including standards defining board accountability, compensation, independence, fiduciary responsibility and representation of the community.
- Resource Development, including parameters for administration of funds, disclosures to donors and commitment to building long-term resources for varied community issues and causes.
- Stewardship and Accountability, covering prudent investment and management of funds, transparent record-keeping, use of funds for their intended purpose, annual audits, and public availability of financial information, including standards related to due diligence and community responsiveness.
- Grantmaking and Community Leadership, including standards related to broad and open grantmaking programs, due diligence, and responsiveness to changing community needs.
- Donor Relations, encompassing guidelines for informing, educating and involving donors in responding to community needs.
- Communications, including openness to public scrutiny and frequent communications about activities and finances.

U.S. community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors and administer more than \$31 billion in charitable funds. Of the nearly 700 community foundations in the United States, 500 have pledged to comply with the National Standards. The Council on Foundations is currently reviewing community foundations' practices and confirming compliance with National Standards.

The Council on Foundations is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit membership association of more than 2,000 grantmaking foundations and corporations. The Council provides the opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. For more information on the Council, visit its website at www.cof.org.

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