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Trust (trust) 1. *n.* a firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity, reliability, etc. of another person or thing. 2. *n.* one of the most important factors to consider when establishing a charitable bequest, creating a charitable fund, or making a financial gift.

In December 2011, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois was reaccredited in compliance with the National Standards for all US Community Foundations as set forth by the Council on Foundations under a rigorous peer review process and evaluation. Attaining National Standards accreditation shows that the Community Foundation has achieved the nation's highest standards for quality of philanthropic operations, integrity, transparency, and accountability.



What does reaccreditation to National Standards mean for Northern Illinois?

If you are a donor: National Standards demonstrate that the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois will honor and fulfill the intent of your gift or charitable fund, whether you are making a gift today or leaving a legacy for the future.

If you are a grant seeker or grantee: National Standards indicate that the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois awards grants through an open and transparent competitive process designed to address the ever-changing needs of the community.

If you are a professional advisor: National Standards endorse the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois as qualified to consult with you and your clients about community needs, strategic philanthropy, and giving options.

If you are a community official: National Standards confirm that the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois serves as a community leader committed to excellence and positive community development.

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2012

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois in Top Philanthropic Tier Nationally

Rockford, IL – The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois received notification that it has met the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity, transparency, and accountability. The notice comes from the Community Foundations National Standards Board, a national accreditation organization based in Arlington, VA. This is the second time the Community Foundation has been accredited by National Standards; the first was in May 2006.

The National Standards Board is part of the Council on Foundations, a national nonprofit membership association whose members’ collective assets exceed \$300 billion. The Council provides members with services and support to help them succeed, emphasizing the value of philanthropy in the lives of people throughout the country.

“This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for community foundations,” said Gloria Lundin, President of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. “It is critically important to our donors. When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund, or set up a scholarship, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to safeguard their financial gifts and to honor their charitable wishes. The National Standards confirm that our house is in order.”

END