

# Discretionary Matching Grant Program

Grant Type: **Dollar support**

Dollar Amount: **Numerous grants ranging from \$50 to \$45,000**

Foundation Name: **Tracy Family Foundation**

## What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

The Tracy Family Foundation (TFF) seeks to build a legacy of leadership and generosity among Tracy family members as they engage in the work of the foundation with unity and passion. The matching grant (MG) program allows for eligible participants to request dollars on behalf of a nonprofit organization. Eligible participants are Tracy family members 16 years and older, non-family TFF trustees, and TFF full-time staff. Participants may request either a 1:1, 2:1, or 3:1 TFF match to their personal contribution. The minimum request for a match is \$50. The maximum request is \$45,000 per participant per year.

## What were the results of this grant or initiative?

Since the program's inception, participation by members of the first and second generations has been tremendous (100% for years). Since 2012, the participation rate among eligible third-generation family members has been 34%. From 1998 to 2015, TFF has awarded approximately \$5.3 million in MGs. By December 2016, the total grant dollars awarded since the inception of the program in 1998 will be over \$6 million. Personal dollars contributed by eligible participants between 2006 and June 1, 2016, was just more than \$2.7 million. (Before 2006, personal dollars were not entered into TFF's online grant system, which was put in place in 2005.)

## Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

A nonprofit organization received a grant award that was triple that of the personal donation.

To be eligible for the program, participants must contribute their own personal dollars. The program forces personal donations that otherwise might not be made if not incentivized by the impact of those personal dollars with the 1:1, 2:1, or 3:1 match by the foundation. The MG program has been a successful tool for developing the philanthropic spirit among family members. In addition, the program has kept the majority of the Tracy family actively engaged with TFF and allowed the foundation to support nonprofits far beyond the reaches of west-central Illinois.

Replicating this program would allow for more dollars to flow to nonprofit organizations. Personal donations plus foundation grants equals a win-win for nonprofits.



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