

CVC Philanthropy Success Story Achievement Award

Local Fiscal Agent/Applicant Organization: **Calhoun County Community Foundation**

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Title: Calhoun County Community Foundation Board Alternate Members

1. Nature of New and/or Unique Practices

The initial Calhoun County Foundation Board was developed in April, 2005 with a community representative and an alternate appointed from each of the twelve communities within the county (including Twin Lakes). The appointment of the alternate was advantageous as the foundation was started for two reasons. The first was the learning curve on what a community foundation does was “steep” and the need to have community representation at each meeting helped provide continuity from monthly meeting to monthly meeting. Secondly, in order to conduct business the Calhoun County Community Foundation Board needed seven communities represented to have a quorum to conduct business. This community alternates helped to achieve a quorum at each monthly meeting.

2. Measurable Success and Accomplishment

The success of the community alternates can be measured by having a quorum of communities represented to conduct business at the monthly meetings. With each of the twelve communities having one vote at the meetings, these alternates allowed business to be conducted and they provided educated input at the meetings because of their involvement from the beginning.

3. The Usefulness to Others

This idea can be useful to other community foundations if they are having a difficult time getting representation from the communities within their county. Family events, business obligations, and emergencies come up and may take a community board member away from a foundation board meeting. These community alternates allow for these things to happen and still allow business to be conducted at foundation board meetings.

4. Clarity and Ability to Inspire Others

The use of community foundation alternates as part of the Calhoun County Community Foundation Board structure has allowed us to move forward with 24 residents educated in the concept of “community foundation”. Their circle of influence allows more people to hear more about what the Calhoun County Community Foundation is doing in the area of philanthropy.