MARCELINE LEGACY FUND – Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Foundation?
A community foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that helps individuals and businesses pool charitable gifts to benefit a specific geographic area. Through permanent funds and grant making, community foundations address current needs while investing in the future of their communities.

What is The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri?
Established in 2009, The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri strengthens philanthropy across the region by managing community funds and supporting local charitable efforts. Through professional investment management, donor contributions are pooled to create a diversified portfolio, helping maximize long-term growth while keeping administrative costs low.

The Foundation is publicly accountable through independent audits, annual tax filings, public grant reporting, and governance by a volunteer Board of Directors.

What is the Marceline Legacy Fund?
Established in 2026, the Marceline Legacy Fund is a permanent community fund created to support projects and initiatives that improve the quality of life in Marceline. The fund allows residents, businesses, former residents, and friends of the community to invest in Marceline's future by combining charitable gifts to make a lasting impact.

Who decides how the money is used?
The Marceline Legacy Fund is guided by a local advisory committee made up of community members representing diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Funds are distributed through a competitive grant process. Individuals and organizations may submit project ideas and applications, and the committee evaluates, ranks, and recommends grants based on community benefit and long-term impact.

Why is the fund held by The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri?
Partnering with The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri provides several advantages:

- Professional investment management and a diversified investment portfolio
- Lower administrative costs through shared resources
- Access to nonprofit and philanthropic expertise
- Permanent stewardship of charitable funds
- Eligibility for the Foundation's 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, providing maximum tax benefits for donors
- More dollars directed toward community projects rather than administrative and legal expenses

By partnering with the Foundation, the Marceline Legacy Fund ensures donations are protected, professionally managed, and available to benefit Marceline for generations to come.

Investing in Marceline Today. Building Opportunity for Tomorrow.