



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Over the past five years, a number of community foundations have been established in South Africa. The concept is, however, a relatively new one and hence emerging local community foundations have jointly identified a shared need to support one another, as well as to develop the capacity of their operations. In addition, local community foundations need to create awareness of the movement locally and also require to link with the community foundation network, globally.

In order to address these needs, the South African Community Foundation Association (SACOFA) was established during 2005 and the Association has been formally registered as a non-profit organization (046-762-NPO) in South Africa.

THE SACOFA VISION

The long-term vision of SACOFA is to make a meaningful contribution to establishing and maintaining vibrant, well-resourced and fully empowered communities that operate independently in South Africa through supporting, promoting and advancing the philanthropic mechanism of community foundations.

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The mission of SACOFA is to be a highly effective and interactive support network, established for the benefit of sustaining community foundations by rendering services to its membership base in line with their specific needs.

The Association's objectives include to:

- share experiences, develop expertise and gain knowledge amongst community foundations
- develop a set of governance guidelines for local community foundations and encourage mutual support
- build and support an indigenous South African community foundation movement
- conduct relevant research and disseminate information
- identify best practices and participate in peer review sessions
- share tools, policies and resources
- strengthen organizational and governing structures
- provide assistance, advice, guidance, capacity-building services and technical support
- promote a culture of local giving
- formally link with role-players on the African continent and the global community foundation movement
- increase awareness of the community foundation network
- promote and support emerging community foundation initiatives
- mobilize resources for the Association and create links for its members.

OUR VALUES

The Association's activities are regulated by the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability. In particular, SACOFA subscribes to the following enduring values:

- celebrating diversity
- inclusivity and democratic processes
- consultative and participative interaction
- empowerment of members
- respect for one another
- facilitating transformation and social justice.

MEMBERSHIP OF SACOFA

Membership of SACOFA is open to representatives of local community foundations, individuals, groups and organizations who support the objectives of the Association.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY SACOFA

Members of SACOFA determine what services are provided by the Association from time to time. These include:

- networking opportunities, aimed at sharing best practices and providing mutual support
- capacity-building of local community foundations and providing technical services
- sharing of information and resources
- facilitating linkages to local, regional and international role-players and stakeholders.

HOW TO CONTACT US

You are most welcome to enquire about membership or to obtain more information from:

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