

The Legacy of Benjamin Franklin Lives On at CFTT

The legacy of Benjamin Franklin continues to touch the lives of Americans every day. Without a doubt, Franklin was one of the most influential and famous men of his time. Benjamin Franklin was an American polymath— a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher, and political philosopher. Among the most influential intellectuals of his time, Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, a drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the nation's first postmaster general.

In his will, Franklin stated that he wished to be useful even after his death. To fulfill this wish, he left a bequest of 1,000 pounds of sterling silver to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia in 1791. This amount represented half of what he earned during his tenure as President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1785 to 1787.

Franklin's bequest came with a unique stipulation: the funds could not be touched for 200 years. When the time came in 1991, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had over \$2 million from Franklin's estate to distribute. Recognizing that community foundations across the state had the best understanding of their regions' needs, the state entrusted these funds to foundations like The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT). In 2007, CFTT received a portion of this financial distribution, ensuring that Franklin's foresight would continue to benefit our communities for generations to come.

One of Franklin's lesser known but deeply impactful contributions is the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund. This community impact fund embodies Franklin's vision of supporting public good, ensuring that local communities continue to thrive.

Franklin's generosity reminds us of the power of giving. His words continue to inspire us:

"When you are good to others, you are best to yourself." — Benjamin Franklin

Through the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund at CFTT, we ensure that his vision of service, innovation, and philanthropy continues to make a lasting impact. His generosity lives on, touching countless lives and demonstrating that Franklin's influence is truly timeless.

Benjamin Franklin's contributions to American society extend well beyond his lifetime. His forward-thinking generosity continues to strengthen communities today. Through the Benjamin Franklin Trust Fund, we honor his legacy and sustain the spirit of giving for generations to come.