



BENTLEY  
VILLAGE  
FOUNDATION

# *Questions & Answers*



Dear Reader:

This information booklet about Bentley Village Foundation (BVF) was prepared in response to various questions and comments from some of our residents. We understand that some of our residents are very knowledgeable about the Foundation, while others have a partial understanding. Some know very little about what the Foundation does and how it works. We are offering what we hope is beneficial information to all.

This booklet utilizes a “Questions and Answer” format designed to assist the reader to find desired information without having to read the entire booklet.

BVF operates through the benevolence of our residents, who offer both volunteer time and financial contributions, and other businesses and individuals in the broader community. We also benefit from the partnership and support services provided by Vi at Bentley Village. As we look to the future, our success in awarding scholarships along with the increase to our award level to \$6,000, as well as our growing funding for programs, will challenge us to keep pace assuming our current giving levels and reserves. However, we are optimistic we will continue to grow and respond to the needs of our beneficiaries.

Yours truly,

Tom Lynch, President  
Bentley Village Foundation

## ***1) What is the Bentley Village Foundation and what is its purpose?***

Bentley Village Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation) is a public charity. Formed in 2016 as a Florida nonprofit corporation, the Foundation holds a charitable solicitation license issued by the State of Florida and is approved by the IRS to operate under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and accept charitable gifts to use to further its mission:

### **Bentley Village Foundation Mission**

*To provide competitive scholarships for eligible individuals and to sponsor and/or donate to programs intended to enrich the cultural, intellectual, emotional, or physical interests of the residents of Bentley Village or that advance the interests of the Foundation in the greater Bentley Village community and southwest Florida.*

## ***2) Where does the Foundation get its revenue?***

The Foundation receives its revenue from donations which are primarily tax deductible for donors. The majority of donations come in response to one of the three fund raising events. The Annual Membership Appeal, which occurs in early spring, is the largest source of revenue. The second largest is the popular golf tournament accompanied by a 50/50 raffle which is held in the Fall, and which helps fund scholarships. The third source of revenue is special events, typically held in the Spring.

### ***3) How does the Foundation spend its revenue?***

The Foundation follows strict 501(c)(3) guidelines about how and where funds can be used. Budgeted expenditures are approved by the Board of Trustees and are reviewed to assure consistency with the Foundation's mission and in accordance with its strategic goals. Priorities are:

- The Foundation's competitive scholarship program, "Bentley Wings," which provides ongoing funding to recipients from the time of acceptance through graduation or completion of studies.
- Our healthy aging programs (including the successful Music, Mindfulness, and Memory programs) for all residents at Bentley Village
- Support for services provided by other nonprofit organizations in Southwest Florida. In each of 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Foundation donated \$20,000 to the Baker Senior Center Naples in support of various therapy programs for seniors.
- A limited percentage of funds is used for operating expenses, such as fees for accounting and administrative tasks.

### ***4) What is the overall size of the Foundation relative to revenues and assets?***

Founded in 2016, the annual gross revenues for 2020, 2021 and 2022 were in the range of \$460-\$600 thousand. The Foundation has invested assets adequate to provide a reserve for future programs and existing scholarship obligations. Financial statement information is available to members on request.

**5) *How can I contribute money to the Foundation, and can I designate a specific purpose for my donation use such as scholarships?***

**Online:** You can donate money online with a credit card using the Bentley Village Foundation icon on Touchtown or go directly to <https://bentleyvillagefoundation.org/give/>. The website will give you choices to donate to the Annual Membership Appeal, a Fund Donation, or a Memorial or Tribute Donation. You will be able to select if you want the Program Fund or the Scholarship Fund to receive the donation.

**Checks:** Make checks payable to Bentley Village Foundation. Mail the check to:

Treasurer of Bentley Village Foundation,  
701 Retreat Drive, Suite #400, Naples, FL 34110.

The Foundation also accepts donations of appreciated publicly traded stock.

**6) *What are some of the Scholarship statistics?***

We have awarded 100 scholarships since the Foundation was started in 2016, through 2023. More than 35 scholarship recipients have graduated since the inception of the program, including ten in 2023. In 2023 the CCF (Collier Community Foundation) paid out \$186 thousand in scholarships on behalf of the Foundation.

**7) *If I give to the Scholarship Fund, can the Foundation use it for some other purpose?***

No. Any donation designated for the Scholarship Fund or the Program Fund, can only be used for those purposes, and cannot be redirected for another purpose.

***8) Who is eligible for the Foundation's competitive scholarships and how many are awarded annually?***

Applicants must be employees of Vi at Bentley Village or dependents of such employees at the time of application for a scholarship. Individuals awarded scholarships have eight years to use the scholarship while pursuing their designated degree or certificate. The number of scholarships awarded each year will vary, but has historically been approximately twelve. The annual scholarship award is \$6,000 as of 2023, and is subject to annual review by the Board. The Foundation has an agreement with the respected Collier Community Foundation to administer our scholarship program. Awards are deposited directly to institutions, and may be used for tuition, books and fees.

***9) Are there opportunities to volunteer for the Foundation?***

Volunteers provide the lifeblood of the Foundation. The Board of Trustees and all committee chairs and committee members volunteer their time allowing the Foundation to put its financial resources toward community service including charitable organizations in Southwest Florida. If you have an interest in learning more about the personally rewarding opportunities to become involved, go to [www.bentleyvillagefoundation.org](http://www.bentleyvillagefoundation.org) and click on the Volunteer button for volunteer information, or the Give button for donation information. You may also call the Foundation at (239) 238-4208.

***10) Who is a member of the Bentley Village Foundation?***

Anyone who makes a monetary donation to the Bentley Village Foundation is automatically considered a member. All residents of Bentley Village are encouraged to become members of the Foundation. It can be anytime, including at the time of the Annual Membership Appeal, a Tribute, Memorial or a donation to the Scholarship or Program Fund.

***11) What is the relationship between Vi at Bentley Village and Bentley Village Foundation?***

Vi at Bentley Village is a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) responsible for the operation of Bentley Village and the employees, including all the services to residents of Bentley Village. The Bentley Village Foundation is a totally separate nonprofit entity and operates with the approval and partnership of Vi in carrying out its scholarship and charitable endeavors. Due to the generosity and support of Vi at Bentley Village, the Foundation is permitted to use Bentley Village facilities and services.



*Look for more information  
about the Bentley Village Foundation  
by visiting our website -  
BentleyVillageFoundation.org*



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