

# ASHRAE Foundation Q&A:

**Q: What is the ASHRAE Foundation?**

**A:** A separate 501c3 organization that serves as the investment arm, supporting numerous ASHRAE related programs. This includes supporting Scholarships, ALI, Student programs, and Research. The 'Foundation' oversees the investments of more than \$12 million endowed funds and distributes the earned interest to support the designated projects and programs.

**Q: What is the rate of return of these endowed funds?**

**A:** Since The Foundation's inception in 1994, the rate of return has been set at 5%. While this cannot actually be guaranteed – it is voted on every year – the rate has remained unchanged through the economic ups and downs for 20 years.

**Q: What are The Foundations funds used for?**

**A:** The majority of the funds are used to support the 24 ASHRAE sponsored Scholarships, valued at more than \$80,000. In addition, an annual gift of \$150,000 is used to support the development of new ALI courses and programs. The support of ASHRAE Research continues to grow with more than \$60,000 being contributed back through more than 150 named endowed research funds.

**Q: Who can set up a named endowed fund?**

**A:** Anyone! Named endowed funds are a great way to put large Chapter-treasuries to work on behalf of the Chapter, an excellent way to honor an event or person, or create a permanent gift in memory of a Member.

If you need further information please contact RP Staff – [rp@ashrae.org](mailto:rp@ashrae.org) - they'll be happy to help answer your questions or direct you to another staff member who specializes in that area.