



The First Donor Circle in Hungary

What connects my colleague's eleven year old son, the Italian owner of an interior design shop around the corner, the head of the company which manages the building where I live, and a local politician? They all attended the first ever Donor Circle in Hungary.

On December 2, 2015, Ferencváros Community Foundation (FCF) hosted the first Donor Circle in Hungary. FCF is the first community foundation in the country, operating in the 9th district of Budapest, Ferencváros. Trustees first heard of Donor Circles from Vera Dakova of the C. S. Mott Foundation, as well as from community foundations in neighbouring countries which had been organising such events for a couple of years. Attending a Donor Circle in London convinced us about the method; the promise of support from The Funding Network (TFN) convinced us to organise one.

The event was held in a prestigious local concert hall, the atmosphere was great and more than 70 people attending. 3 district-based projects were presented: the first one aimed to enable university students to develop a more accurate image of Roma to fight stereotypes; the second project asked for funds to improve the local community garden, while the third initiative planned to provide mentoring for talented teenagers who dropped out of mainstream education. Altogether €6,450 was raised – an unexpectedly large amount. It was a really great first donor's circle, as the [film](#) shows.



The trustees were keen on a Donor Circle as a social event that makes giving fun and visible, while it also includes serious aspects of relationship-building (between donors as well as between donors and supported projects) and donor education. Stressing these features is new (and very important) in Hungary.

The Donor Circle also enabled the community foundation to talk to new people who were open to engage in philanthropy as well as to local artists and companies which were happy to support the event with in-kind support. Réka Balogh designed the event's logo and Costes Restaurant, the first Michelin star restaurant in Hungary, provided the catering. In addition, it was great to belong to the group of community foundations organising Donor Circles and it was a delight to work with The Funding Network.

FCF aims to organise a Donor Circle once a year, with broadly the same aspirations regarding participants, donors, and projects. It is our long-term plan to develop a circle of generous donors who are well-informed about our district and dedicated to funding local projects.

Tamás Scaurszki
Founding Trustee
[Ferencváros Community Foundation](#)