

PLEASE ROUTE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIR GRANTS COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

# BUILDING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

GRANTMAKING CONSULTING PROGRAM

*Sponsored by:*

PHILANTHROPIC VENTURES FOUNDATION-  
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## Philanthropy & Poverty - Is There a Fit?

AIDS, teen pregnancy, homelessness, housing, unemployment; any one of these issues could take all the money in the world plus a dollar and so community foundations, for the most part, have shied away from them. Here are some successful stories and program ideas from foundations across the country:

- How can a funder get a handle on say, affordable housing, and other issues? One community foundation found that **teachers** could afford **rental housing** but couldn't afford the deposits necessary to get in, such as first and last month's rent, and cleaning, utility, and security deposits. The foundation contacted superintendents of schools and offered money for loans for new teachers with less than three years on the job. The loans are made at either no interest or low interest (5% max.). The superintendent makes the loan to the teacher. The teacher pays back the loan to the school district and the district has a pool from which to make further loans. For a copy of the agreement form necessary to make such a program work, call (510) 645-1890.
- Sometimes just a small amount of additional money is needed for a **down payment** to buy a home, say \$5,000. A community foundation makes housing funds available to a community service agency that deals with the poor. The agency can decide whether to give or loan the money to a family for a down payment.
- Persons on welfare who participate in job training programs, once hired, are expected to enter the job with the required tools of the trade. A community foundation gives **tool scholarships** so that the trainee can enter the work force. Examples would be a woman certified in cosmetology who needs required items to take a job or a man trained to be a carpenter who needs specific tools to begin work.
- Most scholarship programs are for college. Some community foundations also offer **scholarships** to persons on welfare to enter vocational training programs. The procedure is the same as with college scholarships, with money going to the schools in the name of the students. The funder should take care that the training program is certi-

fied and reputable.

- Some community foundations search out programs, or get people to initiate programs that **prepare persons for getting a job**. An exemplary program is A Miner Miracle run by Kathy Miner in San Francisco, (415) 217-7230. This program offers special cosmetic makeup instructions, hair styling, and two sets of clothes to wear on the job. Another example: a group of lawyers got together and pooled their used clothes for others to use. They called their effort “law suits”.
- There is no shortage of food in America. There is a shortage of **distribution of food**. Knowing this, community foundations can better focus their funding to address hunger. One of the most outstanding food programs the Editor has seen, after visiting over 200 cities, is the South Plains Food Bank in Lubbock, Texas. The Executive Director is David Weaver (806)763-3003. This program even has its own dehydration plant. In some cases, the mere purchase of a truck with funding from a community foundation changes the picture on food availability. Another outstanding food distribution program is the Food Bank of San Francisco. They recruited a food broker who has transformed the program by getting huge food donations from commercial entities. Contact Gary Maxworthy (415) 282-1900.
- A **discretionary grant** is where the community foundation invites a professional to accept money which can be used at the discretion of the recipient. Some community foundations offer \$5000 at a time to agencies serving the poor. They can use this money to meet the **emergency needs** of the public they serve. A small amount of money at the right place, at the right time, can have maximum impact. Example: a woman says to an agency “My husband is in jail. I can get a waitress job, but I don't have \$60 for the uniform.” \$60 might keep her off welfare. The same can be done for county welfare workers who are on the firing line and who can see the need for small grants, which if available can reduce the incidence of crisis. For information on how to make discretionary grants call (510) 645-1890.
- Rotary International has taught us how to offer medical attention to the poor through their RotoCare Clinics. Community foundations can encourage Rotaries to undertake such efforts if one doesn't already exist.

**Building Community Foundations** is now available by E-Mail.

If readers would like to receive Building Community Foundations by E-Mail, they should send in their E-Mail address to [info@venturesfoundation.org](mailto:info@venturesfoundation.org).

## **Program Officer Training**

The Grantmaking Consulting Program offers training for program officers. The training is two full days (8 am - 5 pm). A 560 page syllabus is distributed to each participant which includes material on grantmaking, operating procedures, sample guidelines, and correspondence. The syllabus is designed to be a reference document and is carefully indexed for handy use.

A training session can be set up anywhere for 5 to 10 persons. In the case of small foundations, Executive Directors and board members are welcome to take the training. The cost is \$400 per person.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM OFFICER TRAINING COURSE**

**October 16 & 17, 2000**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Program Officer Training will be held in Oakland CA on October 16 & 17, 2000. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit the San Francisco Bay Area, enjoy yourself over the weekend, and engage in constructive training sessions. Accommodations available by contacting the downtown Oakland Marriott Hotel (2 blocks from scenic Preservation Park where the training sessions will be held). Cost \$400 per-person. Register early, class size is limited.

Call (510) 645-1890 for information and registration.

### **Comments on Program Officer Training - (conducted April 18 & 19, 2000)**

“I liked it when you opened up discussion regarding a real situation in our foundation.”

“Practical ideas in ‘bullet point’ format most helpful.”

“Liked hearing about other people’s experiences/practices.”

“The training was very helpful. It gave insight to the Program Officer position as well as great ideas for more effective grant making and grant application review. Extremely helpful for new community foundation personnel.”

“Very helpful to meet with peers. Got ideas from Bill and others.”

“Excellent. I find that I benefit from not only the written and scheduled material, but from the interaction with other foundation personnel. I like the way conversation is encouraged and directed.”

“Very good. The role playing as well as going over requests with talk among all of us is great!”

“Bill is knowledgeable, polished, and doesn’t waste time. The resource materials are sure to be used because of the thoroughness with which they were explained. Also, there was a good balance between presentation of information by Bill and discussion of it by the group.”

## ***Building Community Foundations***

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation  
1212 Preservation Park Way  
Oakland CA 94612  
(510) 645-1890 (510) 645-1892 fax

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### **The Grantmaking Consulting Program offers three services:**

- Three-day on-site visits with extensive review of foundation procedures, extended individual sessions with the foundation board, grants committee, and staff.
- Two-day training sessions for program officers (5 or more persons).
- Facilitating board retreats.

### **Comments on Grantmaking Consulting Program:**

“You were wonderful to be so helpful to our community foundation– once again - after a decade of getting us launched on the right foot. I hope you are pleased with the result of your extraordinary early investment in our Foundation.”

John G. Davies  
President & CEO

Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Louisiana

“Bill’s ability to adapt his experience, knowledge and observations to directly relate to your individual Community Foundations is the best part of the consultation - Totally relevant and usable.”

Nancy Plummer  
Executive Director

Noble County Community Foundation, Indiana

Past copies of ***Building Community Foundations***, Bulletin 1 (August 1992) to Bulletin 43 are available as a unit for \$25 to cover the cost of copying and mailing. Send check to:

**Philanthropic Ventures Foundation**  
**1212 Preservation Park Way**  
**Oakland CA 94612-1201**      **E-mail** [info@venturesfoundation.org](mailto:info@venturesfoundation.org)