

PROGRESS

December 1997

The Newsletter of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

GRANTMAKING ON AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BASIS

Good grantmaking requires good timing and the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation specializes in immediately responding to the applicant. With 37 years of experience, the Foundation staff can make thoughtful, careful, and immediate decisions.

The Foundation now has three immediate grant programs: **Teacher Resource Grants** up to \$550 where we try to respond to a faxed request in one hour and give a check out in a day; **Community Arts Grants** with a

response in one day; **Quality Child Care & Welfare Reform Grants** with a response in a day.

Bill Somerville, President of the Foundation, states, "We are trying to push the envelope in grantmaking and see how responsive it can become."

Donors are welcome to contact the Foundation to discuss the possibility of having such a grantmaking effort.

IMPROVING THE WAY PHILANTHROPY WORKS

Somerville has consulted with over 140 foundations. In addition, the Foundation publishes three bulletins for national distribution: Building Community Foundations, discusses specific ideas to improve grantmaking and is in its 30th edition; Dialogue, is a series of questions and answers between funders and fund seekers, in its 10th edition; Teacher Grants, in its first edition, is a resource for teachers on funding.

Over 1,000 people receive these bulletins. Reader response indicates a very positive acceptance.

YOUTH HEALTH FUND ~ AN IDEA LOOKING FOR A DONOR

We have researched an idea, surveyed youth workers, and conceptualized how it would work. We propose to offer grants up to \$4,000 to help correct health problems from natural causes for persons 18 years and younger.

Such things as glasses, hearing aids, birth defects, congenital dental defects would be eligible for assistance. Not covered would be tattoo removal, emergency care, or cronic health care.

Persons must be referred by a professional who works with youth such as a teacher,

doctor, youth agency executive, religious leader. Relatives cannot refer a person to the program.

Our goal would be to make a funding decision within 48 hours.

Responses from contacted youth workers for initiating such a program are positive.

An estimated \$50,000 is needed to begin and get this effort established. Of this, the Foundation would keep \$1,000 for all expenses involved.

Bill Somerville, President of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation has been appointed to the **Editorial Advisory Board of Foundation News & Commentary**, the official voice of the Council on Foundations in Washington, DC. In addition, he also has been selected to serve on the **San Mateo County SUCCESS Advisory Committee** for welfare reform and to make a second consultation visit to the United Kingdom to help community trusts get better established.

YOU CAN MAKE GRANTS ANYWHERE WITH PVF

Donors can do philanthropic giving anywhere they wish through the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. In some cases, donors have requested that the Foundation President make a site visit to investigate giving possibilities.

Any giving of a charitable nature can be handled by the Foundation including international, grants to individuals or to newly formed groups that do not yet have their non profit status.

FOUNDATION HELPS OTHERS GET STARTED

The Philanthropic Ventures Foundation has acted as a fiscal sponsor/repository for a number of fledgling programs in order to help them get started. **Leadership High School**, a new charter school in San Francisco was one of these programs. **Action in California Education**, an effort to teach entrepreneurship to youth was another as was the **San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation** and the **Bridge and Compass Programs** giving low income youth an opportunity to attend college preparatory private schools.

STARTING A FUND . . . If you would like to start a Fund at the Foundation feel free to call and find out how easily it can be done. For further information call (510) 645-1890.

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