



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

May 27, 2010

Mr. Barack Obama
The President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Community leadership starts at home—within the community. Community foundations hold a cherished role, engaging our fellow citizens in ways that invest in building our communities' futures. One of the unique elements of philanthropy is its historic commitment to investing in innovation, finding new solutions to old and enduring problems.

As representatives of our nation's leading community foundations, we are writing to underscore our support of your administration's initiatives that are designed to support innovative nonprofit programs and other solutions that are being developed in communities across America.

America's community foundations are working at the local, regional, and even state levels with nonprofits, the private sector, and government to develop new and better ways to address our serious challenges in education, economic opportunity, job training, access to health care, and other areas of need. Community foundations are a key philanthropic driver in more than 700 communities and regions around the country, making grants of more than \$4.3 billion nationwide in 2008.

In particular, we support the creation of the Social Innovation Fund, housed at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), as a tool to find and invest in more community-based solutions. We know that to make progress on our challenges, we need to find and support the best, most promising ideas and enlist all parts of our communities in implementing these solutions. We also know that with the right resources, the right partnerships, and the right collaborations, we can develop new solutions that can be replicated and moved to other communities to address their needs.

We look forward to working with your administration over the coming year to ensure that the purpose and goals of the Social Innovation Fund are implemented successfully through community partnerships in communities of all sizes—urban and rural. But today, we are writing to commend your recognition of the key role community foundations play in creating innovation and impact for a better tomorrow in our hometowns.

Sincerely,

Terry Mazany, President and CEO, The Chicago Community Trust and Affiliates
Barbara A. Young, President, Porter County Community Foundation
Anita Scism, President/CEO, Northwest Arkansas Community Foundation

David E. Schultz, President, Waukesha County Community Foundation
Ted Vander Roest, Executive Director, Springfield Foundation
Andrea L. Reynolds, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Dutchess County
Clarence R. "Reggie" Williams, President and CEO, San Antonio Area Foundation
Michael L. Batchelor, President, The Erie Community Foundation
Bradley C. Bebout, President/CEO, Marion Community Foundation
Joedy Hightower, President/CEO, Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation
Nancy Van Milligen, President/CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Sue Conley, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.
W. Earl Taylor, President, Elkhart County Community Foundation
Diana R. Sieger, President, Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, President/CEO, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Nanette M. Keiser, Ed.D., President, Berrien Community Foundation
David M. Welbourn, President and CEO, Essex County Community Foundation
Kevin K. Murphy, President, Berks County Community Foundation
Terri Lee Freeman, President, The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Linda L. Goodwin, Executive Director, Bucks County Foundation
Susan Furgeson, Executive Director, Blue Rive Community Foundation
Paul Hickman, J.D., Executive Director, Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier
Denise K. Spencer, President and CEO, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, Inc.
Pamela Moore, Executive Director, Legacy Regional Community Foundation
Becky Ceperley, President and CEO, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
Ann T. Lisi, Executive Director, Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Peggy O'Shea, President & CEO, The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc.
Douglas R. Boone, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
Carleen K. Rhodes, President and CEO, Minnesota Community Foundation and The Saint Paul Foundation
Lee Owen, Executive Director, Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation
Vickie Klein, Executive Director, Phelps County Community Foundation
R. Andrew Swinney, President, The Philadelphia Foundation
Christopher P. Askin, CSPG, CFRE, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Rose Lincoln Hamilton, President & CEO, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Kathryn A. Halma, President/CEO, McHenry County Community Foundation
Bess Langbein, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County
Brian T. Byrnes, President and CEO, Santa Fe Community Foundation
Ron Harper, President, Community Foundation of Howard County, Inc.
Josie Heath, President, The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
Nancy Straw, President, West Central Initiative
Sharon Stredde, President & CEO, Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
Mike Kane, Executive Director, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
Holly C. Sampson, President, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
Susie Nelson, Executive Director, Community Foundation For The Ohio Valley, Inc.
Stuart Comstock-Gay, President & CEO, The Vermont Community Foundation
Shea Sinclair, Executive Director, Western Kansas Community Foundation
Teri A. Hansen, President/CEO, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Judy Sjostedt, Executive Director, Parkersburg Area Community Foundation and Regional Affiliates
Keith Burwell, President, Toledo Community Foundation
Nancy Sullivan, Executive Director, Williamsburg Community Foundation
Jonathan P. Kresken, President, Waccamaw Community Foundation

Steven R. Joul, President, Central Minnesota Community Foundation
Cali Brooks, Executive Director, Adirondack Community Trust
R. Randall Royster, Esq., Executive Director, Albuquerque Community Foundation
Brad Sell, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Washington County, MD
Virginia S. Martinez, President, El Paso Community Foundation
Tina Anderson, President, Winona Community Foundation
Christina P. Wilson, Executive Director, Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
Wayne Carmello-Harper, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
Todd Lueders, President/CEO, Community Foundation for Monterey County
Rob Allison, President & CEO, Wichita Community Foundation
John Stremsterfer, Executive Director, Sangamon County Community Foundation
Sherry Risk Stark, President and CEO, Heritage Fund – The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County
Susan Sadecki, President and CEO, Main Street Community Foundation
Linda Engh-Grady, Executive Director, Whitefish Community Foundation
Mary Ann Burk, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa
Lance Linares, Executive Director, The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
Jeanne A. Bovard, Director/CEO, Scranton Area Foundation
Cheryl W. Elliott, President & CEO, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Brian R. Frederick, President/CEO, The Community Foundation of Lorain County
Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO, Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Diane L. Brown, Executive Director, The Community Foundation for South Central New York
Jennifer Dowley, President, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Ashley White, Executive Director, Lapeer County Community Foundation
Elizabeth A. Cherin, President and CEO, Fremont Area Community Foundation
Caroline M. Avery, Executive Director, The Community Foundation of Burke County
Charles M. Barber, President & CEO, The Luzerne Foundation
Maggi Spartz, President, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, Inc.
Eileen Kuperavage, Executive Director, Schuylkill Area Community Foundation
Thomas H. Davis, Jr., President & CEO, The Community Foundation of South Alabama
Steven C. Guerber, Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation
Veronica Blake, Chief Executive Officer, Placer Community Foundation
David J. Bennett, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Maddy Metzger-Utt, Executive Director, Greater Everett Community Foundation
Barry VanderKelen, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation
M. Elaine Peck, Executive Director, The Putnam County Community Foundation
Sandi Roehrig, Executive Director, Fond du Lac Area Foundation
Nina Waters, President, The Community Foundation in Jacksonville
Mary M. Jalonick, President, The Dallas Foundation
Elizabeth Crittenden Palacios, Foundation Director, Taos Community Foundation
Barbara Hughes, President and CEO, Community Foundation Sonoma County
Susan M. Ross, President & CEO, Fairfield County Community Foundation
Regina Jahr, Executive Director, Black Hills Area Community Foundation
Meredith H. Jones, President and CEO, Maine Community Foundation
Ruth Blank, Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento Region Community Foundation
Linda B. Carter, President/CEO, Community Foundation of Broward
Judy Knapp, President, Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County
Elizabeth Gawron, President, The Cape Cod Foundation
Roger K. Viola, President, Topeka Community Foundation

Janet Haley, Executive Director, Hendricks County Community Foundation, Inc.
Marilyn A. Bok, CEO, Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers
C. W. "Bud" Walther, President & CEO, The Community Foundation for Jackson County, Inc.
Marlene A. Casini, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Delaware County
David Miller, President & CEO, The Denver Foundation
Nancy W. Kieling, President, Princeton Area Community Foundation
Daniel P. Templin, Executive Director, DeKalb County Community Foundation
Karen Bilowith, President/CEO, The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
Stuart C. Fauber, President & CEO, The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
Sue Hammersmith, President & CEO, Lenawee Community Foundation
Susan A. Barry, JD, President & CEO, The Community Foundation of Louisville
Pam Siegenthaler, President/CEO, Richland County Foundation
H. Walker Sanders, President, The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Inc.
Jeff Yost, President and CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation
Elizabeth Y. Day, President, The Community Foundation of Frederick County
Beverley Francis, President & CEO, Columbia Foundation
Paula Fritz Eddy, Executive Director, Elk County Community Foundation
Alicia Philipp, President & CEO, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Richard Melching, President, The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington
Gloria Lundin, President, Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
George H. Gault, President, Wyoming Community Foundation
Neil Steinberg, President & CEO, The Rhode Island Foundation
T. Duane Gordon, Executive Director, Middletown Community Foundation
Marilyn Weisheit, Executive Director, Dubois County Community Foundation, Inc.
James G. Williamson, President, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Inc.
John G. White, President, Skagit Community Foundation
Nicole Taylor, President & Chief Executive Officer, East Bay Community Foundation
Thomas E. Wilcox, President and CEO, Baltimore Community Foundation
Lewis Feldstein, President and Chief Executive Officer, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Douglas Kridler, President and CEO, The Columbus Foundation
Stephen C. Borchers, President, Wayne County Foundation
Suzanne H. Lee, President, First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania