

Executive Director Report February 2021

The intersections of the pandemic, racial justice, poverty, and political unrest have created unprecedented challenges for our communities. FFA wants to be innovative; we have an opportunity to join some other amazing grantmakers who are changing this field.

I sent all of you the Center of Effective Philanthropy Series of 3 reports called “Response to Crisis” which summarize the data collected on foundations’ responses to the current crises. It references the **Pledge** which was endorsed by 800 foundations. I did not sign on as we have not had a chance to discuss, but I think this would be fruitful and we have set aside a half hour for this. Here is a link to the Pledge.

https://www.cof.org/news/call-action-philanthropys-commitment-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=Kathleen%20Messages&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=106453582&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8aalBCucpZy33B8FeAlRu0rnRh7ZsJYG8LhA4P_OfL2tQZ-Hz6jdW_YIMNG55SMoRiJMVccMVC_K_78Ja3ktcnyygyUoEYpLP2KbQn0Eal06FNx8&utm_content=106453582&utm_source=hs_email

I thought the CEP questions were excellent:

- How are foundations responding to the crises of 2020?
- How are foundation leaders responding to inequities exacerbated by the pandemic, how are they reckoning with racism?
- In what specific ways are foundations supporting their grantees differently?
- Will these changes be permanent or temporary?

All of this leads me to want very much to have a conversation at the February meeting.

- **How do the crises of the past year have an impact on FFA’s grantmaking?**
- **How are we called to respond in the short term and long term?**
- **Who are we trying to reach? What are we trying to change?**
- **Do we feel led to sign the Pledge?**

I have continued to attend a wide variety of conferences and webinars. I am struck by the contrast between the CNJG meeting (which seemed minimalist and focused on hired evaluators) and the Philanthropy Network 4 day Sparx conference, which challenged us to think of philanthropy in new ways and to commit to change, centering people from a wide range of communities. I came away from this conference convinced that we need to think of philanthropy in new ways and to respond now to the current challenges. Some of my take-aways from the Philanthropy Network conference:

- Philanthropy is here to support the work of community organizations. Need to move to a place that is truly supportive, not challenging and making their work harder. Move from a model of transaction and accountability to partnership.
- Only 5% of our endowments goes to grantmaking. 95% is investment, and may be invested in companies that perpetuate the very things we work to end. How can we use our investments to advance justice?

- Our endowments have recovered this year. We should be spending more than last year in this year when there have been more communities on fire than ever before. We don't need to count those affected, we need to facilitate the work.
- Who is the "community" we serve?
- Our grantees are the experts in their communities and their work. Are we listening and facilitating this work? Let them tell us what they need, not us think we know and imposing that
 - Example: Early on Gates Fdn thought developing countries needed chickens—now understand that vaccines + education are key.
- Who is doing effective work toward equity? Whose work reflects our values?
- We can't go back to "the way things were." It wasn't good enough. Challenge traditions that no longer work.
- Technology is here to stay. Advocate for continuation of telehealth. Help overcome inequities in access. Critical to facilitating social connection.
- Are there challenges that emerged in 2020 that we want to respond to NOW?
- Find and support BIPOC led organizations
- Collaborations and peer support can increase impact. Many organizations pulled back during the pandemic. We can encourage them to reach out across sectors and generations again.
- Have board join in on verbal reports:
 - What are you learning? What do you want us to know?
 - What are the challenges, the strategic questions you are grappling with?
 - How can we help?
 - How have the challenges of 2020 impacted your work?
 Who would like to participate?

Attended: GIA annual conference, CNJG cybersecurity, PEAK Small grantmakers, CNJG immigration, Friends Fiduciary- Quaker Fundraisers, GIA serious illness funders meeting, GIA-Complex Needs through an Equity Lens, PACF/Nonprofit Connect- Leadership toward DEI, Ziegler symposium – 2 days, Philanthropy Network SPARX conference: Justice From Moment to Movement- 4 days, small funders round table, PKF O'Connor Davies Annual Private Philanthropy Executive Director meeting, Bryn Mawr Trust Princeton and Philadelphia networks, GIA late life depression care, serious illness and end of life collaborative, CNJG annual meeting – evaluation, Artis dementia in pandemic - with Teepa Snow, Workshop on doing Powerpoint on Zoom. CNJG and PN-vaccine issues.

Outreach Conversations: Woolman Conference Center, RISE -Hightstown, Chandler Hall, Susan Corson Finerty (former Friends Journal), C-TAC: transforming advanced illness care, Ujima Peace Center, On-Lok Center. I had a conversation with Don Mick as a potential resource to ARCH and a conversation with Callie (not great fit). I reached out to Friends Rehabilitation Program but they dropped the ball.

I sent information on the Temple U technology lending program to our grantees in PA. Several have responded with appreciation. I also sent information on a Starbucks and a Tyson grant to Ayesha (Ujima).

I sent an email to all of the FGC yearly meetings inviting the start of a conversation about how they serve aging adults with a few questions about their efforts, resources and needs. I hope that this will lead to developing relationships beyond New York and Philadelphia. Some have returned responses.

I have been planning the Ziegler part of the February program and will soon begin to close out 2020.

Grants:

1. LOI--Woolman Hill- Quaker retreat center in Western MA is trying to make the center more accessible to people with mobility challenges.
2. LOI--Pendle Hill-is seeking funding for a collaboration with Woodbrooke to help meetings into a new era of blended meetings, with more virtual programming.
3. LOI--The Alzheimer's Association of the Delaware Valley is seeking funding for an outreach program to BIPOC communities in the Delaware Valley.
4. LOI—Kendal at Home for online programs
5. LOI—One Roof Chicago—planning for multi-function community center
6. Ujima- working on IRS revocation of non-profit status, not yet resolved. I have asked if they have a partner on this project with a valid 501c3 (suggested by other grantmakers).
7. On Lok- minigrant request for Chinese New Year cards shared with all of you, approved and sent. I know I can authorize this myself, but prefer your involvement. This may lead to a more substantial relationship in the future.
8. Jaisohn- Submitted final report. They lost the LCSW staff member upon whom the idea of doing billable counseling rested, although they have increased the bilingual LSW from part- to full-time. They shut down social services as they were unable to pivot to virtual services for several months. Director's attention appears focused on how to increase billable services, with several ideas which have not firmed up to a plan. They are getting some coaching from the HealthSpark Foundation, which is a good idea. We plan to talk again later this month, which may lead to a proposal.
9. Age Friendly NJ is meeting again in March to look at ways to be an age-friendly state. Do we want to be involved?
10. ARCH: I had a conversation with Callie. She has a LCSW working with her who has experience in program evaluation. Callie is very excited about what she has learned from 2 years and 100 records. She plans to update the End of Life Planning Guide and to start on a Guide to Housing. These will coordinate nicely with outreach to other Yearly Meetings.
11. Jane Mack called about FFA funding the speaker for the annual meeting. \$5000 seems high for a 1-hour program, and I have questions about the objectives. I will give more details in the meeting when I have more information from her. Speaker: <https://www.calmclarity.org/about>

Reports from Hickman, Ralston, Jaisohn-summaries attached

There are 3 LOIs to consider at this meeting: Pendle Hill, Woolman Hill and Alzheimer's Association. On Lok may also submit something soon.

Articles of Interest:

I have attached The Seven Responsibilities of a Trust Based Board to continue our education about how FFA values align with trust based principles.

In addition to the Center on Philanthropy reports, I shared a link to the Aging 2.0 website which has featured 21 inspiring stories from around the world, which I think illustrate how innovative some

organizations have been, even in the pandemic. I also sent a link to the Princeton Community Works conference and information about the programs offered at Nonprofit Connect.

PEAK Grantmaking making the case for multi-year unrestricted operating grants:

https://www.peakgrantmaking.org/insights/the-implementation-gap-overcoming-barriers-to-grantmaking-practice-change/?utm_source=PEAK+Grantmaking&utm_campaign=d5cb97d86b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_11_06_01_21_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c620ac67b2-d5cb97d86b-353566445

Next Avenue printed an article about the coming wave of nursing home closures. Covid-19 has brought into sharp relief many issues facing nursing homes, including bankruptcy, understaffing, and people's reluctance to move to facilities that have had high Covid-19 mortality rates. Changes are needed including new models of long term care.

https://www.nextavenue.org/covid-19-future-of-aging-outlook-for-senior-housing-and-care/?hide_newsletter=true&utm_source=Next+Avenue+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=e645761c3f-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_056a405b5a-e645761c3f-166461069&mc_cid=e645761c3f&mc_eid=f78a178699

Thank you for submitting bios.

Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director