

# EXECUTIVE PROFILE | Nancy Jamison

Nancy Jamison is the executive director of San Diego Grantmakers, a nonprofit membership association for organizations that engage in philanthropy. SDG enhances the good work of its grant-making members by providing opportunities for networking, collaboration, education and advocacy. To date, SDG's membership includes nearly 100 private/family/community foundations, corporate giving programs, grant-making public charities, giving-circles and government funders.

## ORGANIZATION

**Mission of organization:** The mission of San Diego Grantmakers is to connect, educate, develop and inspire organized philanthropy to be more effective individually and collectively.

**Year founded:** SDG began as an informal grant-maker discussion group in 1976. In 1999, SDG incorporated as a 501(c)3 and joined similar organizations across the country as part of the national Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers.

**Corporate supporters:** Twenty-one corporate SDG members that network and learn how to best give back to the community: AMN Healthcare; Barona Resort & Casino; Bridgepoint Education Inc.; Callaway Golf Co. Foundation; Chargers Community Foundation; Cox Communications; Fieldstone Foundation; The Hitachi Foundation; Holland America Line; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Kaiser Permanente; Life Technologies Corp.; Mission Federal Credit Union;

## RÉSUMÉ

**Name:** Nancy Jamison.  
**Organization:** San Diego Grantmakers.  
**Title:** Executive director.  
**No. of employees:** Two full-time and two part-time employees.  
**Website:** sdgrantmakers.org.  
**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, psychology, Stanford University.  
**Birthplace:** San Jose.  
**Age:** 56.  
**Current residence:** Del Mar.  
**Family:** Two children — son, 23; daughter, 21.

**Qualcomm Inc.; Sempra Energy; Sony Electronics Inc.; Time Warner Cable; US Bank; Union Bank; WebMD Health Foundation Inc.; and Wells Fargo.**  
**Board chair:** Kathy Patoff, vice president and foundation officer, Union Bank Foundation.

**No. of board members:** 13.  
**No. of volunteers:** 33 SDG members serve on eight committees, plus several student and community volunteers in our office.

**Events:** SDG hosts up to 20 educational and networking programs each year that include special workshops for corporate philanthropies. We support regular meetings for seven grant-maker collaborations and also organize one of the largest local gatherings of philanthropy, the SDG Annual Conference.



**Wish list:** More hours in the day, and more people on staff.

## OFFICE ISSUES

**Measures of success:** Grant-makers that improve their philanthropic impact as a result of SDG membership.

**Misconception:** That we (SDG) provide grants to nonprofits or recommend to our members which specific nonprofits to fund — we do not. Rather, our role is to enhance philanthropic effectiveness through education, connection and advocacy.

## PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

**Personal path to this organization:** It has been a wonderful combination of my

professional and volunteer background and passions.

**Toughest aspect:** There is so much we aspire to do — sometimes we have too many balls in the air.

**Most surprising aspect:** That we somehow keep the balls in the air most of the time.

**Biggest pain:** When one of the balls falls.

**Greatest pleasure:** Connecting members to resources or people.

## INTROSPECTIONS

**Worst recent moment:** Tragic personal losses and challenges experienced by some friends and colleagues.

**Dream for another life:** Sing more.

**Downtime:** Walk on the beach, have dinner with friends, see great theater.

**Causes:** I am inspired every day by the causes our members care about — from military families to foster youth to arts to education to poverty to homelessness to the environment and more.

**Most like to meet:** Jon Stewart.

**Favorite quote:** "All the really great things in life are expressed in the simplest words: friends and family; purpose and meaning; love and work; caring and community; appreciation and gratitude"

— Dan Zadra.

**Most influential books:** Two: "Good to Great," by Jim Collins and "Emotional Intelligence," by Daniel Goleman.

**Favorite vacation spot:** Italy (so far).  
**Favorite way to spend time:** With my children and my friends.

— Steve Adamek