

Despite challenges posed by an unstable economic climate, the members of San Diego Grantmakers (SDG) have been hard at work improving life in San Diego and beyond. SDG has also been busy in wide-ranging efforts to support our members. This report provides a snapshot of those activities. As always, let us know if you have any questions or comments.

www.sdgrantmakers.org

May 2010

MEMBER PROGRAMMING

“The plenary was the best I’ve ever experienced, not only at other SDG conferences but at all the conferences I’ve ever attended.”



“The substantive presentation was excellent. I also enjoyed the conversations that ensued.”

• In-Person Programs

2009: SDG offered over 20 **member workshops** on a variety of topics, including skill-building, best practices in philanthropy and community needs. Program materials (including some audio and video) are available in the members-only section of the SDG website. Some highlights:

- *A Briefing for Funders on Strategic Restructuring for Nonprofit Organizations*
- *An Entrepreneurial Spirit: Three Centuries of Rockefeller Family Philanthropy*
- *Meeting the Critical Needs of the Military in our Community*
- *Story Savvy: A Workshop for Grantmakers*
- *Feeding the Hungry in San Diego*
- *Adversity Means Opportunity: How Corporate Grantmakers Can Strengthen their Programs in a Recession*

2010: A new Program Committee will help us provide the kinds of programs that YOU want. So far, we have covered issues such as **capacity building, nonprofit financials, the needs of women and girls in San Diego, the economy’s impact on our sector, and corporate social responsibility**. We were also fortunate to have the Council on Foundations and Association of Small Foundations hold conferences in town that members attended. Future workshops will include an expanded focus on diversity and inclusion, supported by grants from The James Irvine Foundation and The California Endowment.

• Webinars

Partnering with leading philanthropic organizations, we have offered many webinars and teleconferences to make programming more accessible to our busy members. Sample topics:

- *How to Be a Supportive Funder During the Economic Downturn, Fiscal Management Associates webinar*
- *Building Trust to Promote Community Collaboration, National Center for Family Philanthropy teleconference*
- *Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter, Council on Foundations webinar*

• Annual Conference

160 grantmakers attended our 2009 conference, *The Future of Philanthropy: Creating Silver Linings*, and the day received rave reviews, especially the opening plenary featuring leaders of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Levi Strauss Foundation, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. The breakouts touched on everything from evaluation to collaboration, and the day ended with a discussion about social media. The 2010 committee is hard at work planning another dynamic conference for the fall.



MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH & SERVICES

- Over the past 15 months, we welcomed nine **new members** to SDG:
 - Bank of America Foundation
 - Bridgepoint Education, Inc.
 - Capdevilla Gillespie Foundation
 - Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation
 - California Health Professions Education Foundation
 - James Hervey Johnson Charitable Trust
 - Quidel Corporation
 - Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
 - Tuttleman Family Foundation
- Our **renewal rate** was 92%, surpassing the goals we set in the midst of the economic downturn.
- We continue to provide **personalized research and support** for our members on a variety of topics, from staff compensation to family retreats to employee giving programs. The SDG Executive Director regularly meets with members to keep in touch about your needs: if you'd like to schedule time to talk, just let us know.
- **In 2010**, we aim to **add more new SDG members**, especially family foundations and small- to medium-sized corporations. If you have friends or colleagues whom you think might benefit from membership, we would love to discuss SDG with them.

PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- In late 2009, we launched the **San Diego Giving Stories** project. This series of emails (which will continue through 2010) targets elected officials, their staffs and other civic leaders. We are telling the stories of our members in order to spread the word about the important work you are doing and help build relationships with policymakers.



- **Policymaker Meetings:** In February 2009, SDG sent a team to Washington, DC to the Foundations on the Hill advocacy day to meet with our congressional representatives or their staffs about issues of importance to grantmakers. We visited with Representatives Hunter, Davis, Filner, Issa, and Bilbray either in DC or here in San Diego last year. We also met with a number of state assembly members and county leaders.
- A three-year grant from The James Irvine Foundation has enabled us to hire a **Public Policy Consultant**, who will craft a strategy to deepen policymakers' connection to our work, including city, county, state and federal leaders. This effort will also link all three California regional associations and their members in creating a unified and consistent voice for institutional philanthropy.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

- We send a monthly **SDG Update e-newsletter**, with member and program announcements, philanthropic resources, and headlines of interest. Every other month, we also send **Corporate Link and Family Ties e-newsletters**. In 2009, we launched a special website and newsletter called *Philanthropy and the Economy*, with resources related to the recession. Other recent and timely SDG web resources include *Disaster Philanthropy*, *Guiding Principles for Grantmakers*, and *Diversity in Philanthropy*.
- In 2010 we are **upgrading both our membership database and our website**, which will improve our member services (including online event registration) and allow us to offer stronger online tools and resources.
- In the second quarter of 2010, SDG will have its **second full-time staff member: a Director of Communications**. This position will enable SDG to reach the next level in both internal communications, with and between members, and external communications to strengthen the presence of organized philanthropy in our region.
- In 2009, we again partnered with Volunteer San Diego to provide content for San Diego Business Journal's **Corporate Philanthropy supplement**. This piece has been produced for three years and is designed to help businesses get involved in corporate giving and volunteerism.

WORKING GROUPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Through a significant operating grant from The California Wellness Foundation, these SDG working groups have been doing amazing things and will continue to leverage funding in the year to come. Please let us know if you would like to join a working group or get more information.

• Homeless Working Group

The funders continued to build public and political engagement for the issues facing families at risk of episodic homelessness. A key success was coordinating local cities and social service agencies to help them successfully apply for \$13 million in federal stimulus housing funds. HWG funders also launched the development of a regional plan to end family homelessness, and SDG will serve as fiscal agent.

• San Diego Workforce Funders Collaborative

The group jointly funded four workforce projects, convened employers and the educational community, and secured over \$700,000 in new resources for 2010 programs. The National Fund for Workforce Solutions provides support for staffing this group at the SD Workforce Partnership, and recently won a Council on Foundations award for excellence in collaboration.

• Coming Home to Stay Project

This collaboration created a project in southeast San Diego and City Heights to coordinate services for the formerly incarcerated in order to reduce recidivism and improve long-term well-being. This project was developed based on deep input from formerly incarcerated individuals, local providers, and criminal justice administrators, and is now one of 15 finalists (out of 131 national applicants) being considered for up to \$500,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

• Child Welfare Funders


Using their collaboratively-designed strategies for both the prevention of child abuse and for youth aging out of the foster care system, members provided aligned funding to key agencies. The group has also strengthened relationships with County Child Welfare Services and now has a seat on the Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

In other working group news:

- **San Diego Neighborhood Funders**
Since 2002, the 15 funders in this collaborative have invested \$5 million in The Village at Market Creek, a resident-led community development plan that transforms 45-60 blighted acres into a connected network of residential, commercial, and cultural projects. In 2010, SDNF members will be supporting a comprehensive plan for smart growth and a cultural “village” that cultivates resident vision and voice, builds strong networks, and promotes community enterprise and ownership.
- The **Environment Funders** group started meeting to learn from each other and recently made aligned grants to start a “Buy Local, Save Water” public education campaign in City Heights.
- **North County** funders held several meetings to explore ways to work together.
- A large group of **Arts Funders** met multiple times to examine ways to support arts and culture organizations, including the creation of a campaign to raise awareness about the enduring importance of the arts.
- The **Education Funders** were on hiatus in 2009, but we are currently contemplating re-tooling the group.
- The SDG board recently approved **protocols for establishing new working groups**, a very popular and high- impact means for leveraging philanthropic dollars.

SAN DIEGO GRANTMAKERS

HOMELESSNESS WORKING GROUP



The New Face of Homelessness: Families Tonight, 6,200 children in our county will not be sleeping in their beds, in their homes. They will be sleeping on a friend's couch, in a relative's garage, in their parent's car, in a shelter, or on the street.

SAN DIEGO GRANTMAKERS

SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE FUNDING COLLABORATIVE



Employment is one of the keys to ending poverty and increasing self-sufficiency and success of our region's residents. At the same time, San Diego's health care sector is facing a significant workforce shortage due to the aging population. Likewise, our biotechnology industry suffers from a lack of properly educated and skilled workers to fill its growing needs.

SAN DIEGO GRANTMAKERS

COMING HOME TO STAY FUNDERS GROUP



Robert is coming home after three years away at a state prison. While away, he worked on his GED, but has few job skills and no prospects for a job, and he's not sure his family will welcome him back to their home.

SAN DIEGO GRANTMAKERS

CHILD WELFARE FUNDERS



Imagine yourself turning 18. A stranger hands you a small amount of money and tells you, "You are now on your own. Good luck!" With no immediate family to turn to, no job, no high school diploma, and nowhere to live, your prospects for the future are bleak. You have the highest risk to become homeless, live in poverty, be unemployed, and turn to crime. You have just emancipated from the child welfare system.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

A few other SDG activities of note:

- The **co-location** of SDG with members Alliance Healthcare Foundation and The California Endowment has been a wonderful opportunity: many thanks to our suite-mates for their in-kind support of SDG.
- The board recently approved updated conflict of interest, whistleblower, and other key policies so that SDG will adhere to **best practices**.
- As a service, SDG regularly makes **presentations to nonprofits** in the community about how to work with foundations and corporate giving programs. These have been hosted by Nonprofit Management Solutions and Congresswoman Susan Davis.



As your local resource, we are here to help you in whatever way we can: through programs, services, collaborations, special initiatives, communication, and more. We also know that the true power of an association like this is the networking SDG enables between you and your peers. Every day, we see how the connections you create and the knowledge you gain ultimately benefits our community. As always, thank you for everything you do.

We are honored to support you.



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