

Giving Forum 2011 Editorial Calendar

Winter 2011: Disparities in Minnesota: Philanthropy's Role in Closing the Gaps

Minnesota enters the second decade of the 21st century in the midst of wide-ranging and deep challenges in education, employment, housing, the environment and health. And these only scratch the surface. All of us – from our new governor and the legislature to the nonprofit and private sectors – are facing painfully tough choices. What does philanthropy bring to the table? What is the role of grantmakers in shaping solutions to the mounting disparities in our state?

This issue of *Giving Forum* will highlight how Minnesota funders are drawing on their resources, creativity and boldness to help resolve these daunting issues. Also featured will be MCF's just-released research on grantmakers' 2011 outlook, examining how they anticipate their giving and other activities will be affected by the slow economic turn-around and the challenging nonprofit landscape.

Spring 2011: Diversity and Inclusion in Philanthropy

Above all, grantmakers want to be effective. Striving for and – more importantly – achieving diversity and inclusion in philanthropy has been heralded nationally and locally as key to more effective grantmaking. But what does this mean, and what does it look like?

This issue of *Giving Forum* will feature MCF's highly anticipated five-year research study "Working Toward Diversity and Inclusion" and focus on perceptions, realities and best practices of Minnesota grantmakers. Research findings and grantmaker interviews will reveal where the sector has been, is now and wants to be, and how grantmakers envision reaching their and the community's goals.

The issue also will highlight insights from grantmakers who model inclusive practices and have had real success in actively leveraging diversity and inclusion to build strong organizations and ultimately achieve better outcomes in the community.

Summer 2011: Impactful Giving and Getting: How To's for Grantmakers and Grantseekers

Giving away money is easy – NOT! Determining values, establishing effective processes, and making strategic, impactful grantmaking decisions are extremely challenging. And as resources become increasingly tighter while societal needs grow, grantmaking absolutely needs to more effective, more efficient and more intentional.

This issue of *Giving Forum* will examine all the nuts and bolts of effective grantmaking. From establishing clear, meaningful grant guidelines to adopting new mission-related investment tools that capitalize on the other 95 percent of their assets, grantmakers need to reassess every method to maximize outcomes. The issue also will feature strategies that funders and nonprofits can engage in together to expand the reach of grant dollars. Readers will find answers to nonprofits' most-pressing questions, access first-person accounts from program officers and other funding decision makers, and look behind-the-scenes at Minnesota grantmaking.

Fall 2011: Private Independent Foundations: Grantmaking Movers and Shakers

Of the nearly 1,500 foundations in Minnesota, about 85 percent are private family and independent foundations. Of these, most are family grantmakers – organizations in which the original donor or donor's family is still involved. So the number of private independent foundations is small, but their philanthropic impact is huge.

The largest foundation in Minnesota is now the newly formed Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, a private independent foundation with assets exceeding \$1.9 billion. Other notable independent grantmakers are the Bush, Otto Bremer, Northwest Area, Blandin, F.R. Bigelow, Jerome and Hardenbergh foundations, which are all among the largest Minnesota grantmakers ranked by assets. The W.K. Kellogg and John S. and James L. Knight foundations, also MCF members, are examples of private national foundations.

This issue of *Giving Forum* will delve into what inspired the creation of these and other private foundations, how their missions are relevant today, the recent impact of their work, the legacy they hope to create, and what differentiates them from other grantmakers.