



**Welcome** to the Global Fund for Community Foundation's September e-bulletin!

## **News from the Global Fund for Community Foundations**

**What makes a truly global organization?** As the GFCF moves towards incorporation as an independent institution Jenny Hodgson reflects in Alliance Online on the past 10 months of consultation and some of its key findings. To read the full article please visit: <http://www.alliancemagazine.org/node/1461>

**Barry Gaberman on the importance of cooperation** In a recent article in Alliance magazine, Barry Gaberman, Chair of the GFCF's Incubation Committee, draws on his experience of assisting the GFCF with its incubation process, to discuss the importance of cooperation between international professionals and community foundation practitioners, whose current relationship is, he argues, all too often a case of 'strangers in the night'. To find out more, please visit: <http://www.alliancemagazine.org/node/1411>

## **News from Global Fund partners**

### **Regional focus: Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **Strength in diversity – how a Mexican environmental fund is applying the community foundation concept**

Community foundations, far from being homogenous, embrace a whole range of methods and ideals, making each as unique as the communities it serves.

One example of this can be seen in recent GFCF grantee partner Fondo Accion Solidaria A.C (FASOL), a local socio-environmental fund in northwest Mexico and member of the Greengrants Alliance of Funds. By implementing strategies to meet environmental goals, FASOL seeks to strengthen community institutions of all kinds, taking as the cornerstone of its philosophy the connection between a community and its environment. FASOL's director Artemisa Castro explains how and why an environmental fund can concern itself with the full spectrum of community issues: "In biological terms, a community is a group of interacting organisms sharing an environment. In human communities, intent, belief, resources, preferences, needs, risks, and a number of other conditions may be present and common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness. Considering all this, it seems fair to say that environment helps to define and create community. It brings people together and presents them with common challenges and opportunities; it presents society with a set of questions about its future (vis-à-vis land use, energy, water, economic development, etc) that require communities to come together and make collective decisions. A healthy environment will be a function or outcome of a strong, healthy community, where as when communities are fragmented, the result is often the loss and degradation of resources."

FASOL's philosophy may be unique among community foundations, but the fundamental principles of the community foundation model are clearly evident in the fund's work: "FASOL plays an important role in the communities where we work by pooling economic resources and then supporting local organizations and initiatives that empower and educate people to make a difference. FASOL's structure gives decision making power to local leaders

and activists because they know better than any outsider what the local needs are and understand the most promising ways to address those needs.”

### **HelpArgentina Night - a worldwide community raising funds for Argentina**

Throughout the month of September, evening fundraising events are taking place in Argentina, Latin America and beyond as part of an initiative by recent GFCF grantee partner HelpArgentina entitled HelpArgentina Night.

The events, as simple as hosting a dinner party to raise funds and support for an Argentinean civil society organization of their choice, encourage participants to become part of a worldwide community raising funds for Argentina.

Between 2005 and 2007, more than 6000 people participated in 191 HelpArgentina Night events, in 44 different cities in 14 countries around the world, raising funds for 40 member organizations of HelpArgentina.

This year, there are already about 30 events registered, including 8 being hosted in Argentina, most of these in Buenos Aires. Strikingly though, 2 of this years events are being held in small Argentine communities where HelpArgentina membership organizations work. One of the groups hosting an event is the Biblioteca San Popular San Antonio, which operates in the province of Argentina, one of the country's poorest provinces. The organization started as a community library but now has a variety of innovative economic development programs.

Ever willing to undertake innovative and unusual projects (they have for example a pilot program raising silk worms to see if they can create a cottage industry), the Biblioteca San Popular San Antonio is generally the beneficiary of one or two of the international events held by HelpArgentina. Now however, they have undertaken an active role in directly contributing to the scheme and are hosting their own HelpArgentina Night. While the amount of money that they raise directly is not large, it is an important indication of the solidarity of the community and the peoples' willingness to engage in local philanthropy.

For more information on HelpArgentina please visit [www.helpargentina.org](http://www.helpargentina.org)

### **Update on the aftermath of Hurricanes Gustav and Hanna, from Josette Perard, Haiti Director of the Lambi Fund of Haiti**

Writing in the direct aftermath of the catastrophe, Perard described the destruction wrought by hurricanes Gustav and Hanna: “Yesterday, Port au Prince was in a state of panic. It was extremely windy and raining hard. Many houses no longer have roofs, trees are uprooted, light poles with electric lines are down... but this is nothing compared to the devastation which has struck other communities throughout the country.”

News of the destruction in other communities soon arrived as calls from Lambi Fund partner organizations began to come in. An update from the president of the Women's Association of Mapou Rollin revealed the extent of the damage to community projects. The grain mill that the Lambi Fund had helped to build was completely flooded and the corn and millet brought by the market women to be milled had been washed away. A chicken coop which the Lambi Fund had also helped to build was suddenly providing shelter for over 100 local families, who found themselves stranded and without food for several days.

A leader in the farmers' organization of Gwomon (AGPGM), told Perard that she had lost everything; her crops and her animals. She also confirmed that the land cultivated by AGPGM had been devastated and that all the plantain trees were down.

Far worse though than the news of damage to housing, crops and infrastructure, were the reports that came in of colleagues who had lost their lives. Among those killed was a member of Lambi Fund partner organization ODEPERIB, in River Blanche.

Even at such an early stage, Perard made clear that the Lambi Fund were already thinking about what could be done: "Once it stops raining we will see in what way we can begin to help our partner organizations and their communities"

Now, as flood waters recede and the people of Haiti seek to rebuild their lives the need for communities to pull together is perhaps more strongly felt than ever. With reports suggesting that the disaster has left as many as 1 million Haitians homeless, the challenges this small nation faces are immense.

For more information about the Lambi Fund or to make a donation, please visit <http://www.lambifund.org/>

## **News from other regions**

### **Philanthropic culture continues to grow in Southern Africa:**

Chris Mkhize, Chairman of the South Africa Community Foundation Association (SACOFA) and CEO of GFCF grantee partner Uthungulu Community Foundation has recently provided an update on SACOFA's progress.

Formed in 2005 by a handful of community foundations operating in South and Southern Africa, SACOFA's mission is to provide a highly effective and interactive support network that benefits and sustains community foundations in South and Southern Africa. Recent research has revealed that community foundations in South Africa are now used by private and public sector organizations as examples of more sustainable and accountable non-profit organizations. This represents an exciting development in a region where philanthropy and the concept of community foundations are still very new. To read the article in full, please visit: [http://www.wingsweb.org/News/news\\_item.cfm?id=36](http://www.wingsweb.org/News/news_item.cfm?id=36)

## **Community philanthropy news update**

### **Evaluation of World Bank Community Foundation Initiative available**

The World Bank Community Foundation Initiative (CFI) was the result of a partnership established by the World Bank and the foundations community, led by the Council on Foundations International Programs Committee. The purpose of the CFI, which ran from 2003 – 2008 and was made possible with grant support from the Ford Foundation and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, was to raise awareness about the community foundation concept within the World Bank and to support the start-up of new community foundations in selected developing and transitional countries. An evaluation of the CFI, written by Yumi Sera and Dorothy Reynolds can be downloaded from the United States International Grantmaking (USIG) website: <http://www.usig.org/PDFs/CFIevaluation.pdf>

The GFCF itself emerged as a product of the CFI and the institutional relationships that were developed between the World Bank and private foundations. Technical support to the CFI pilots in Moldova and Tanzania will continue to be managed by the GFCF through a designated grant from the Mott Foundation.

## **Exploring the Community Foundation concept in France:**

The Lille Foundation was the venue for a two-day seminar organized by the French Foundation Centre (CFF) on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The seminar, which was attended by representatives of banks, corporate foundations, local government and the Fondation de France, provided a starting point from which to explore the community foundation concept and its potential application in France. Former French Prime Minister and Mayor of Lille (1973-2001), Pierre Mauroy, gave the opening address: Mauroy was also the founder of the Lille Foundation, established in 1988, and which could arguably be described as France's own first community foundation. International perspectives on the community foundation concept were provided by Danah Craft, Vice President of the Council on Foundations, Bernadino Casadei, Director of the Italian Association of Grantmaking Associations, Jan Despiegelaere, Project Director of the Community Foundation for West Flanders and Jenny Hodgson, Director of the WINGS Global Fund for Community Foundations. In addition, there were presentations on a range of different existing philanthropic / foundation initiatives from across France.

The discussion was rich and thoughtful and was really only a starting point for a much larger conversation. It was noted that in contexts such as Italy, the United Kingdom and Russia, community foundations had emerged at specific historic moments, when the conventional tools of redistribution had started to be dismantled (decentralization in Italy or in the U.K. the break-up of the welfare state under Margaret Thatcher) or where they had never even existed (Russia). With public service in France in a state of crisis, perhaps this was indeed the time to be exploring new models? Whilst there was an acknowledgement that a community foundation (or "foundation territoriale") could indeed serve as a vehicle for bringing people together across the community, there was also a concern that in the French context, such an initiative would automatically be perceived as an act of politics.

In closing the meeting, Beatrice De Durfort, Director of the CFF concluded that, in order to be able answer the question "Is the community foundation a useful concept for France?" further investigation and exposure was necessary. As a next step, the CFF is organizing a study tour to Canada to attend the Community Foundations of Canada Conference and to visit individual community foundations. For more information and for a full report of the meeting (in French) please contact the CFF at [info@centre-francais-fondations.org](mailto:info@centre-francais-fondations.org)

## **Polish Community Foundations establish Local Funds Federation**

Following the establishment of the first community foundations in Poland between 1998 and 2000, 2001 saw the creation of an informal association The Community Foundations Network. Recently formalized under the name "The Federation of the Community Foundations in Poland" the group is aiming to aid community foundations in implementing their strategic goals, promote the CF concept and organize joint social campaigns. Having devised a comprehensive strategic plan for the next two years, various grant applications are planned and there will be an active drive towards enrolling new members and widening the network's reach.

## **Calendar**

**TCFN Milestone Meeting, Berlin, 26 - 28 September** The meeting which will be the closing gathering of TCFN Phase III, will also mark the beginning of a transition period that will result in the transfer of the network to Community Foundations of Canada. Participants will reflect on recent history and accomplishments of the network as well as

taking this opportunity to work closely together on the goals and objectives for its future activities and the challenges ahead.

**Grantmakers East Forum 8 - 10 October, Dubrovnik** For more information about this event please visit [www.gef.efc.be](http://www.gef.efc.be)

**Russian Donors Forum 2008 Conference, 16 - 18 October "Promoting Best Practices of GR for NGOs"** Organized by CAF Russia with support from the European Commission as part of its program "Development of relation between civil society and the state", the conference will present examples of best practices for relations with federal, regional and local authorities and examine the role of NGOs in the implementation of administrative reform. More information about the conference can be found here: <http://www.donorsforum.ru/eng/calender/>

**CSR Asia Summit 2008, 3 - 4 November Bangkok** The meeting will provide insight into the most cutting-edge CSR topics unique to the Asian context and offer the chance to engage with speakers such as Ernest Wong, Hewlett-Packard's Supply Chain Social & Environmental Responsibility Program Manager, Greg Koch, The Coca-Cola Company's Managing Director of Environment and Water Resources and Kasit Piromya, former ambassador of Thailand in Russia, Indonesia, Germany, Japan and the US. For more information on the summit, please visit: <http://www.csr-asia.com/summit08/>

**Registration still open for the Community Foundations of Canada Conference 2008, 7 - 9 November, Montreal** To register for this event, please visit <http://www.cfc-fcc.ca/conference2008/>

**V4 Grant Programme for the Visegrad Countries** The International Visegrad Fund supports projects in the fields of cultural cooperation, scientific exchange and research, education, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation and promotion of tourism. More information about the fund including details of how to apply for a grant can be found on the Fund's website [www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org)

### **Coming up in the next GFCF e-bulletin...**

A focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

Please send your news items and any other suggestions to [info@wings-globalfund.org](mailto:info@wings-globalfund.org)