



Welcome to the final Global Fund for Community Foundations e-bulletin of 2008!

News from the Global Fund for Community Foundations

What is a global fund to do?

After months of consultations, there are still some questions being raised as to what sorts of entity the Global Fund for Community Foundations should be supporting. Alliance magazine asked a number of people working in the philanthropy / development field from around the world to reflect on the identity and purpose of community foundations and the role they can play in local development globally.

To read the article in full click here: <http://www.alliancemagazine.org/en/content/what-a-global-fund-do> .

Regional focus

Asia and Pacific

What role for community foundations in the Philippines?

The Philippines' Association of Foundations (AF), which has been in existence since 1972, first began promoting the community foundation concept in the Philippines in 2002. The best-known community foundation in the Philippines, Pondong Batangan, was actually established in 2000 by the then Archbishop of Lipa, Batangas which is several hours' drive from Manila. Ironically, the decision to call this new philanthropic entity a "community foundation" was arrived at entirely independently of the burgeoning international community foundation field: the term just seemed to capture what the organization was about. What is significant about the foundation has been its ability to mobilize tiny amounts of resources on a significant scale in communities which are by no means wealthy: members of the local community accumulate small change which they keep in soft drink cans (available from the church and the foundation's offices). When they are full they bring them to the foundation where staff and volunteers count them, bag them up and deposit them at the bank. Not only has the foundation become the first stop for local businesses in need of small change, but this constant resource flow has enabled it to support health, education, food and micro-finance projects in the community, including a community pharmacy.

Earlier this year, the AF conducted a series of consultation activities as part of the GFCF's global consultation process, aimed at exploring the context for and challenges facing community foundation and local philanthropy development. A series of different events were organized, for organizations already operating as community foundations or interested in becoming one, for NGO representatives from across the country and for representatives of international donors and corporate foundations. Representatives from WINGS and from the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium also participated in the sessions.

Some of the main advantages of the community foundation concept that were identified in the consultations were:

- As an effective and transparent way of building on traditional forms of community philanthropy, such as diaspora giving, community self-help groups etc, which were perceived to have some weaknesses (particularly around governance and transparency when it came to scaling up, and “donor fatigue” among Overseas Workers);
- Renewing the “spirit of community” in a particular locality;
- Providing a multi-stakeholder, multi-player framework where different interests and resources can be leveraged;
- Enhancing local autonomy among NGOs and other community based organizations by creating some independence from international donors.

There are now a handful of organizations in the Philippines which already possess some features of a community foundation (they are either mobilizing local resources or making grants such as bursaries etc) or which are new organizations interested in pursuing the CF idea. AF is working with these groups, providing technical support and advice. Among the challenges that they face is one of geography: the Philippines is made up of over 7,000 islands so bringing people together to learn and share can be a challenge. Another is that local, small-scale grantmaking is not well-established as a development practice. Even a more established community foundation like Pondong Batangan tends to implement projects themselves rather than make grants to others, for reasons both of trust (people give to the foundation because they trust it to do good works) and also of weak local capacity.

For more information about Association of Foundations please visit: <http://af.pfconline.org/>

Local environmental issues as a basis for community foundation development in India – an insight into Kodagu Model Forest Trust

Kodagu Model Forest Trust (KMFT) is a modest volunteer-run community-based organization based in Kodagu district of Karnataka State, South East India. It was originally established as part of a Canadian network of “model forests” to focus on sustainable forest management and other environmental issues in a community which has a diverse population, ranging from small coffee plantation farmers to ethnic tribal groups whose way of life is increasingly under pressure from urbanization and the changing local environment.

KMFT has been involved in a number of projects around environmental education (such as trainings for farmers in bio-dynamic composting and introducing bamboo crops: solar lighting for a village and a solar-fence to keep elephants away from local communities are among the latest in the pipeline).

However, it was through its relationship with Sampradaan, Indian Centre for Philanthropy, which has been working to stimulate philanthropy in three rural areas of India, that KMFT’s leadership came to the conclusion that it could play an even more meaningful role in the local community by broadening its mission and positioning itself as a community foundation, which could mobilize resources among different sections of the community. Over the coming 12 months, and with a modest grant from the GFCF, KMFT will be exploring and testing this new direction, with ongoing support from Sampradaan.

News from other regions

East Africa Philanthropy Forums: Linda Ihuthia of Allavida reflects on the outcomes of the event

In October, Allavida and the East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) came together to hold 3 one-day forums in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The forums were facilitated by Christa Kuljian, former director of the Mott Foundation in South Africa and now an independent consultant, in collaboration with Allavida and EAAG and were supported by a grant from the GFCF as part of its global consultation process.

In total, more than seventy-five organizations – most, but not all, grantmakers - attended the forums, which were aimed at stimulating discussion around how to develop local philanthropy in the three countries.

In Kenya, several organizations, including Kenya Community Development Foundation, the Urgent Action Fund for Women, spoke about their experiences on building endowments and a representative from the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation described their grantmaking strategies, which were “developmental” rather than simply about marketing. In Uganda, a board member of the Kabaka Foundation gave a presentation on their work on “clan-based philanthropy”, which led to a long discussion about the very definition of the word “philanthropy” and how it translates to the African context. Participants also heard from the Kulika Trust, which has been making grants in Uganda for **27 years (!)** and from the newly established Independent Development Fund, which is funded by several bilateral agencies. In Tanzania, over the past year or so, four new community foundations have emerged as the result of a specific programme run by the World Bank-supported Tanzania Social Action Fund and participants heard a presentation on these and wondered whether “community foundation” was a “name” that needed to be used or a “concept” that should be explored. As in the other forums, there was a lively discussion about the role that the EAAG can play across the region: EAAG Chair, John Ulanga (Director of the Foundation for Civil Society) and CEO (Ann Ngugi) were both present.

The high number of business cards exchanged at the events and volume of emails that has followed since, hints at the many fruitful partnerships we hope will have begun life at the forums. Forum participants Mwadhini Myanza of Morogoro Municipal CF and Dr Efraim Njau of Arusha Municipal CF, both in Tanzania, emphasized the importance of such events for newly established and emerging CF's. Dr Njau remarked that this was ‘a good opportunity for the emerging community foundations to come on board and take advantage of learning and capacity building opportunities’.

Some common themes emerged in all three meetings: in addition to heated discussions around the “true” nature of a community foundation, participants observed that it was much easier to stimulate local giving a specific ‘cause’ or event, such as a wedding, because they were perceived as much more “tangible” than perhaps socio-economic projects, where the lines of ownership were often less clear and where it was harder to see the impact.

The atmosphere of the forums was of exchange among equals; no one had come seeking funding and all were ready to share their experiences of meeting the challenge of encouraging giving, especially direct giving from the local community. Ideas expressed included approaching highly regarded members of communities, talking to local businesses to make contributions toward initiatives and adopting the simple, but all too easily forgotten, philosophy of respecting the giver of one dollar as much as the giver ten thousand dollars.

The GFCF and TrustAfrica are pleased to announce the launch of a web-discussion on African philanthropy and invite readers to contribute their views. To be “provoked” by a discussion paper on African philanthropy, go to <http://www.trustafrica.org/gfcf> and to join the discussion go to http://www.trustafrica.org/philanthropy_forum

Jerusalem Community Fund's Amal Nashashibi on the work being done to breathe new life into the philanthropic traditions of the ancient city

Through out the city's history, community resources have been mobilized to fund religious and social activities among the Palestinian population in Jerusalem.

The philanthropic traditions of religion; Islamic waqf, Christian custodies and Jewish bequests, provided the necessary funds to build places of worship, schools, libraries, seminaries, pilgrims' hospices, caravansaries and soup kitchens and helped to keep communities thriving during periods of hardship. To this day, the buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem, both inside and around the Old City's historic Wall stand as a testament to communal efforts.

Welfare Association, a Palestinian Philanthropic Foundation established in 1983 in Geneva by benefactors from the Palestinian diaspora, created a modern link with these traditions, through financing a major restoration project in Jerusalem. Old and historic buildings are being restored and refurbished for modern day usage as schools, libraries, museums, manuscript restoration centers, youth clubs and community centers. The Association also makes grants to local Palestinian NGOs which support an increasingly impoverished and marginalized community in the city.

A key element of Welfare association's work has been the introduction of community advisory committees to promote community ownership of the programs. This practice has paved the way for the establishment of community funds and foundations, whereby Welfare Association's operational presence will recede as local communities increasingly take the management of resources into their own hands. The first fruit of this is the Jerusalem Community Fund.

The Fund was established in January this year, with partial financial assistance from Ford Foundation, as a measure to advance socio economic development in the city, to attract interest among other donors, and to reinvigorate traditions of community self financing and self sustenance.

Local response was quick to materialize in the form of a generous donation from a Jerusalem philanthropist, Mr. Munir Kaloti. Having proffered seed money to establish the community fund, his contribution is now earmarked to rebuild the infrastructure of youth clubs and centers which were once the rallying points in the city for Palestinian youth sportsmanship and voluntary work.

For further information about the Jerusalem Community Fund, please contact: welfare@jwelfare.org. More information about Welfare Association can be found here: <http://www.welfareassociation.org/english/index.htm>

Notes on a visit – Avila Kilmurray of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland on her visit to the Dalia Association, Palestine

The walls of old Jerusalem were built to withstand siege and clearly presided over war and attack, but at least they have a sense of presence and place that the new 'security wall' can never claim. The latter is perhaps the most brutal reminder that working for social justice in Palestine must always take place within the shadow of a horribly abnormal political situation. This is the quandary the members of the Dalia Association face and which we – as a delegation from the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland – shared with them on our brief visit to Jerusalem and Ramallah.

To read the article in full, visit the Dalia Association website: <http://www.dalia.ps/node/105>

Community philanthropy news update

Community Foundations of Canada Conference, Montreal 2008

This year the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) held their 2008 annual conference in Montreal, Quebec. This allowed the global philanthropic community to descend on the Canadian metropolis for an entire weekend in early November. Conference members were able to attend 4 rounds of seminars over 3 days with the choice of up to 14 different sessions in each seminar block. These workshops covered 5 main thematic areas, including; Skills Development, Influence and impact beyond grantmaking and fund development, How current and emerging issues and opportunities affect our work, The role of Philanthropy and our place in society, and Tackling complex issues in our society. An opening plenary was delivered by the internationally recognized author and thinker John Ralston Saul.

Patricio Lanfranco, a film maker and a philanthropist who works for Living City, a Community Foundation based in Chile was one of a good number of GFCF grantee partners to attend the conference. Lanfranco's experience of the event has been committed to film 10 minute documentary about the conference and the society that it represents. The film is due to be ready in mid December after additional shooting in Chile is finished. Patricio has struggled to find time to edit this current film as the success of his last film, *The Judge and the General*, was such that it has been selected to feature at 2 prestigious Latin American Film Festivals, the Vina de Mar in Chile and La Havana in Cuba.

The film-maker's response to the CFC Conference was one of great enthusiasm. He told us that as a result of living under a dictatorship in Chile he had lost one of the most important values possessed by a human being: trust. Patricio claimed that his experience in Montreal had been instrumental in his regaining that important human ability, struck as he was by the openness of Canadian society and the heartening presence of so many philanthropists united under one roof.

Kamran Aghamaliyev, of GFCF grantee partner the Community Development Centre of Azerbaijan, explained that one objective CD centre had had in mind in travelling to Canada had been to compare the North American take on Community Foundations to that of Slovakia, whom they visited in early 2008. Their main aims at the conference included gaining federal support for philanthropic organizations, regional and international networking, reviewing recent theories on the roles of contemporary CF's and doing background work for their own national conference which is to be held in Baku.

According to Kamran the most exciting element in Montreal 'was to see the enormous belief in charity and the leadership role Community Foundations can play in addressing issues and problems in the most needy families and communities'.

The large active involvement of youths at the conference also struck the man from Azerbaijan, not just their volunteering but their involvement in the fund raising process. He claimed that 'the component of skill development incorporated into the daily operations of the conference was something special', this has lead CD Centre to explore possibilities of youth involvement in CF movement and leadership. Kamran says he left Montreal more determined to have CF's succeed in Azerbaijan, according to him recognition and encouragement of CF concepts will show how to achieve social results.

Feedback from those in attendance at the conference has been overwhelmingly positive. It was generally found to be a rewarding experience that left participants with increased

confidence and enthusiasm for the philanthropic sector. The ability to network amongst the philanthropic community benefited many who had travelled a long way to be there. Lorenza Reyes Retana reflected on how interesting it was to find that global Foundations were all tackling similar problems in their own countries. IDIS's Tatiana Akabane from Brazil summed up the community when she said 'it is great to know that there are so many people and organizations you can learn from, even after the conference is over'.

More information about the conference can be found at: www.cfc-fcc.ca/conference2008/

Reflecting on the role of Community Foundations: Dottie Reynolds monographs launched at CFC conference 2008:

The recent Community Foundations of Canada conference saw the launch of a series of three monographs entitled 'The Balancing Act: The Roles of a Community Foundation' by Dorothy Reynolds. A Community Foundation practitioner with over twenty years experience in the field, Reynolds is the former CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and for the past 11 years has worked as a consultant to numerous philanthropic organizations.

To read more about the monographs and to view PDFs of the series, visit the C.S Mott Foundation website: <http://mott.org/recentnews/news/2008/monographseries.aspx>

Trans Atlantic Community Foundation Network seeks Program Manager

The Trans Atlantic Community Foundation Network (TCFN) is moving from its original home in Germany to Canada, as of January 1, 2009. Founded by the Bertelsmann Foundation with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, TCFN is a peer learning network for emerging and established community foundation practitioners. The new host, Community Foundations of Canada, is seeking a Program Manager for a two year contract.

For more information about this position, click here: http://www.tcfm.cfc.be/whats_new.php

Calendar

The European forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding 2008 Forum Stakeholder's Conference, 2 December, Milan Italy Centro Fondazione Cariplo will be hosting this year's event with a theme of Partnerships in Research. Guests such as Cor Katerberg, Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences for the Netherlands, will be giving talks. The Conference aims to shed light on issues such as: are partnerships important for research, is there a preference for research partnerships because of more money or because they acquire knowledge, expertise and resources? What are the do's and don'ts, the challenges and opportunities for foundations in partnering with public and private funders' as well as research operators. It will also be covering issues concerning the benefits of public private partnerships (PPP's) and how they have an effect on funders' policies.

For more information about the forum, visit: <http://www.efc.be/projects/eu/efprf/>

International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) Conference 2008, 3-5 December 2008, The Netherlands

What ever happened to civil society? This question is the focus for this conference scheduled to be held in the KDK Conference Centre in Holland and aims to get to the bottom of what we mean by civil society. Main aspects will be the relationship between civil society and the aid industry as well as the role of the state in society; is it contractor, watchdog or antagonist? Issues about new challenges for civil society will be raised as will the question; does it still have a practical role in this modern age?

Please click here for further information: www.intrac.org

Follow up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus 2008, 29 November - 2 December, Doha Qatar The aim of the conference is to assess the progress made on the Monterrey Consensus, which was adopted at the Financing for Development (FfD) in March 2002, and reaffirm it's goals and commitments. Also on the agenda will be sharing the lessons learned and identifying the obstacles encountered, as well as discussing actions to overcome these constraints and important measures that need to be implemented. The future of the Monterrey Consensus will also be discussed.

More information about this event can be found here: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/>