

# ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

How philanthropy can make a difference in challenging times

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# TIE-INS

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PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA

MAY-JUNE 1988

## Chaplain's story, walking shoe to be in GA exhibit

*The Reverend Carrie Dorfman is a journeyer. That's why she was selected as the person to be featured for the presbytery in a bicentennial salute at General Assembly.*

*In keeping with the "Celebrate the Journey" theme of the Bicentennial, GA organizers asked for a story, photograph and shoe from one journeyer from each presbytery. The resulting posters, stories and shoes will line the corridors of the convention center during the Assembly, June 7-15 in St. Louis.*

*Here is part of the story Dorfman wrote and sent with her walking shoe to GA:*

It was nine years ago that my call to prison ministry was initiated . . . up to then, my closest encounter with prison had been the occasional drive past the medieval-looking gun tower turrets of one of the male prisons further north in the state. I decided to call the current chaplain at the women's prison and see if I could tag along with her to determine whether my style and my understanding of ministry could possibly fit "out there." And so, one sunny, fresh spring day, I ventured forth - into a world that



*The Reverend Carrie Dorfman's "journey" will be on exhibit at GA.*

ation. Now, when I look at her, I still see her individuality, but I no longer see her standing alone.

She is surrounded by a multitude of not-so-heavenly-hosts: surrounded by her family system; surrounded by us in society who actively or passively condone our society's penchant for physical and sexual violence (particularly, but not limited to, violence against women and children); surrounded by us in society who look the other way or actively participate in racism and classism; surrounded by a society that perpetuates the destructiveness of alcoholism and chemical abuse; surrounded by a justice system that is filled with errors and inequities and that favors the rich and powerful; and surrounded by us in society who, in many, many subtle and blatant ways, lets a person know that their worth is something others determine.

And yet, in the midst of that multitude, there is also a small band of heavenly hosts with her. There, too, is the Christ who is also imprisoned. There, too, is the God who is biased toward the oppressed and who insists on reclaiming and



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# 1. Are we dreaming big enough?





# CIVIL MARRIAGE COLLABORATIVE

a proteus fund initiative

evelyn & walter  
**HAAS JR. fund**



FORD  
FOUNDATION

**JFF**  
JOHNSON  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

**horizons foundation**

*Fueling the LGBT Movement*



GILL FOUNDATION

The  
**Calamus**  
Foundation



THE  
OVERBROOK  
FOUNDATION



# 1. Are we dreaming big enough?

**2. Are we doing enough to intentionally benefit and empower vulnerable and marginalized communities?**

**FIGURE 1: AGGREGATE MONETARY BENEFITS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT (FIVE-YEAR PERIOD)**

Location	Nonprofits in the Sample	Total Spent on Advocacy and Organizing	Total Value of Monetized Impacts	Return on Investment
New Mexico	14	\$16,645,835	\$2,616,105,670	\$157 to \$1
North Carolina	13	\$20,365,023	\$1,808,316,547	\$89 to \$1
Minnesota	15	\$16,535,602	\$2,282,889,293	\$138 to \$1
Los Angeles County	15	\$75,501,269	\$6,886,534,758	\$91 to \$1
Northwest (ID, MT, OR, WA)	20	\$33,869,587	\$5,097,554,582	\$151 to \$1
Pennsylvania	13	\$26,086,613	\$3,175,929,346	\$122 to \$1
Gulf/Midsouth (AL, AR, LA, MS)	20	\$41,863,253	\$4,767,944,258	\$114 to \$1
<b>AGGREGATE</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>\$230,867,182</b>	<b>\$26,635,274,454</b>	<b>\$115 to \$1</b>

*from Leveraging Limited Dollars*

# PENNIES FOR PROGRESS:

A DECADE OF BOOM FOR PHILANTHROPY, A BUST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

How did the largest foundations give from 2003-2013?

Underserved communities  
**RECEIVED  
LESS THAN 1/3**  
of large foundation funding



■ National large foundation funding \$16.6 billion  
■ Share of grant dollars to underserved communities



Of the largest US foundations

**90%**  
**GIVE < 1/2**

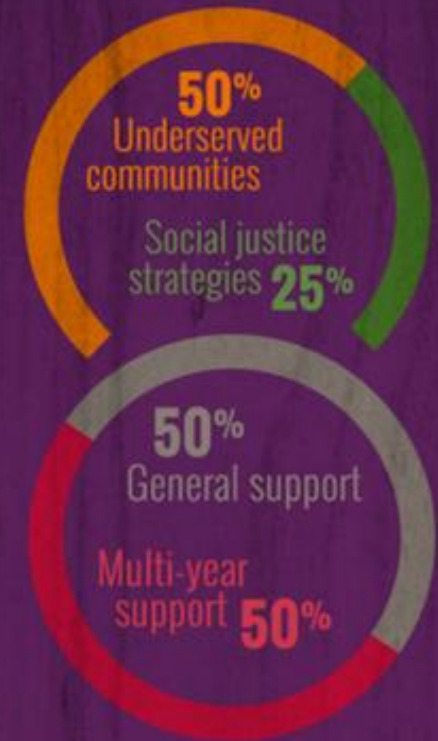
of grant dollars in ways  
that benefit  
underserved communities

Among foundations, there is a  
**LACK OF  
COMMITMENT**  
to empower people and address  
the root causes of  
inequity & injustice in society



10% of largest foundations' grant  
dollars devoted to these strategies

To achieve Philanthropy at Its Best,  
foundations should aspire to these  
minimum funding levels:



**2. Are we doing enough to intentionally benefit and empower vulnerable and marginalized communities?**

# 3. Is our privilege making us overly cautious?

**4. Are we giving in ways that promote the health, growth and effectiveness of our grantee partners and those they serve?**

**5. Are we wielding our power and all the tools at our disposal to build the world we envision?**

# Ways to Wield Power Beyond Grantmaking

1. Convene
2. Collaborate
3. Reputation and Voice
4. Mission Investing
5. Political Giving

- 1. Are we dreaming big enough?**
- 2. Are we benefitting and empowering vulnerable and marginalized communities?**
- 3. Does our privilege make us overly cautious?**
- 4. Do we give in ways that promote health, growth and effectiveness for those we serve?**
- 5. Do we wield our power and all tools at our disposal for our missions?**

# QUESTIONS

**STAND UP!**