



The Foundation's staying power enables people with diverse talents to strengthen our community now and in decades to come—from savvy donors and professional advisors to nonprofit leaders and the corporators who volunteer their leadership.

FEATURED ARTICLES



Charves family benefits St. Bernadette School, trims tax liability page 2



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Oak Hill CDC executive director Mullen Sawyer leads "Insights 2011" tour of neighborhood improvement projects.

INSIGHTS 2011 PROBES NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE MODELS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation's fall Insights educational forum, entitled *Insights 2011: Livable Cities*, explored new models of public-and-private sector collaboration to advance economic opportunities, decent housing and quality of life in urban neighborhoods.

Held on September 13th at Worcester Academy, the event featured expert speakers including Joe Kriesberg, president of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations. "CDCs remain vital as a vehicle to organize people in neighborhoods so they can achieve tangible results," says Joe.

Noting the Foundation's long history of supporting Worcester's CDCs, Foundation CEO Ann Lisi says, "As local, independent organizations that use public and private funds to improve our neighborhoods, CDCs are a huge asset."

Since their start in the '70s, CDCs have evolved into enterprising organizations

that are less dependent on government contracts. As private sector investments grow as a source of funding, Joe sees a need for a stronger community voice in CDC ventures. "Residents need to have a decisive say in strategy and in the metrics for success," says Joe, "so that community change can be sustained over the long term."

Yet local initiatives also need the perspectives and expertise of foundations and other partners. "I believe the most creative and effective outcomes emerge from the interaction, and sometimes even the tension, between neighborhood level players and regional actors," Joe says. "By engaging multiple perspectives we generate better results."

Joe's organization has proposed a bill to foster entrepreneurial approaches that he sees as the future of urban development. If passed by the state legislature, the Community Development Partnership Act will create a tax credit to spur public and private investment in high-performing CDCs. 

IRA ROLLOVER BENEFITS BOTH SCHOOL AND DONORS



“By giving through the Foundation, our fund will grow and benefit the school in perpetuity,” says Deanna Charves, with Richard, her husband.

As a volunteer in the advancement office of St. Bernadette School in Northborough, Deanna Charves has a keen eye for opportunities to motivate donors. She and her husband Richard seized such an incentive in the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The couple took advantage of the legislation, which may expire at year’s end, to benefit the school and reduce their tax liability. The act allows taxpayers of age 70.5 or older to roll over their mandatory IRA distributions to charities instead of receiving the money as taxable income.

The Charves family used their distribution to create a designated Foundation fund that supports St. Bernadette School. “We are delighted to contribute to a good, solid Catholic education the newest and fastest-growing elementary school in the Diocese of Worcester,” says Deanna.

“The money went tax-free into our fund,” continues Deanna. “The Foundation received the whole amount. At the same time, we avoided putting our household in a higher tax bracket.”

BILL WALLACE RECEIVES 2011 RENAISSANCE AWARD

The Foundation presented its 2011 Renaissance Award to Bill Wallace, executive director of the Worcester Historical Museum, at its annual meeting in May. Bill is the 7th annual recipient of the award, established by Jack Lund (1920 – 2010) to honor an exemplary leader of a local nonprofit. Chosen by the Foundation’s Executive Committee, the honoree receives a cash prize (about \$5,000) to fund life-enhancing experiences.



“It’s an honor to be recognized for something you enjoy doing,” says Bill Wallace.

“Our museum is committed to the community and its shared past and to have Worcester reinforce that is gratifying,” says Bill. “And Jack Lund was a true friend of the museum, so this award means even more to me.”

As the museum plans new interactive galleries, Bill says, “I may use the prize to visit other historic sites for ideas—or go to a Disney park! It’s a fascination.”

NEW PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY NETWORK STRENGTHENS ADVISORS’ TIES WITH FOUNDATION



(Front from left): Dorothy Dimitri, Janet Bousquet, Ann Molloy, Anne Wales, Patricia Jones; (2nd Row): Michael Grenon, Timothy O’Malley, Jay Aframe, Michael Martin, Neil Petersen, Joseph Stolberg (chair), Tracy Craig, Charles Manoog; (Rear): John Merrill, Michael Bollus, Joel Buthray, Michael Brockelman, George Dresser, Daniel Tinsley, Dennis Gorman, Marvin Silver, Donald Maloney.

As trusted advisors to donors, professional advisors have had a long and deep association with the Foundation. Many serve on its board and committees and 50 percent of its funds originate through advisors’ recommendations.

The Foundation’s new Professional Advisors’ Network (PAN), an advisory committee of professional advisors—accountants, insurance brokers, attorneys, bankers, financial planners and trust officers—will capitalize on these synergies to benefit the Foundation and the community.

“Our region has a significant asset in

the Foundation,” says Joe Stolberg, the founding chair of PAN and Managing Partner of Stolberg, Ebbeling & Blanchette, LLP. “When clients put money in the Foundation, our clients and our community are well served.” Members will act on their own advice. “Each of us will contribute to the Directors & Corporators Fund and introduce at least one new donor to the Foundation,” says Joe. “In 2013, all of us will join the Acorn Society by including the Foundation in their estate plans.

“Our clients believe in us,” concludes Joe. “We believe in the Foundation. Everybody wins.”



"My interview with the Toxic Soil Busters team confirmed for me the value of grants to well-managed organizations with meaningful missions." —Cynthia Pitcher

OUTREACH & EDUCATION REPORT: THE WORCESTER ROOTS PROJECT

The Foundation's Outreach & Education Committee engages volunteers in grantee site visits. Distribution Committee Chair Gerry Gates says, "O&E reports enable us to go beyond the proposals and really get to know the organizations requesting the grants."

Corporator Cindy Pitcher recently visited the youth-led Worcester Roots Project. The following brief is adapted from her report.

"This program empowers urban teenagers to take action on social justice issues in their neighborhoods. I interviewed the group's Toxic Soil Busters team on their work to tackle lead contamination.

"As a retired small business owner who has lived here for more than 40 years, I have a keen interest in inner-city educational programs. I observed the effectiveness of the approach that Worcester Roots is taking with the teenagers. They demonstrate strong commitment to their mission and to their individual tasks, which include accounting, sales, community outreach, soil testing and construction. They make the day-to-day decisions that produce results.

"The group is creating a well-researched and informative brochure and planning open houses to educate their neighbors. While working to lower risk of lead poisoning, the program enables youth to develop important business and social skills." 🍌

FOUNDATION CEO SELECTED FOR CFLEADS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Ann T. Lisi, Foundation president and CEO, has been selected to join the inaugural CFLeads Executive Leadership Institute.

CEOs of 13 community foundations will meet four times during 2012 to develop leadership skills and peer relationships. Each participant will also consult with advisors on issues of individual interest. Ann plans to focus on the challenges of evolving the successful and mature foundation she has headed since 1992 toward an increasingly proactive role in spearheading community development. 🍌

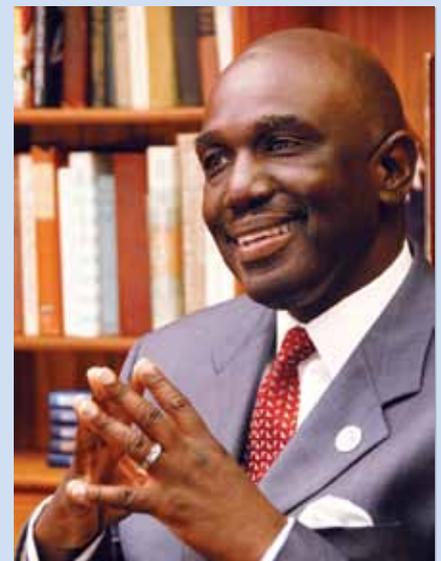
NONPROFIT CEOS MEET FOR PEER LEARNING ON URGENT ISSUES

The Foundation's Nonprofit Support Center recently launched a series of small-group educational sessions for nonprofit leaders. Entitled "The Energizing Conversation Project," the popular new program hosts volunteer-led, two-hour meetings that encourage candid exchange on shared challenges and urgent issues.

"A lot of talented people in our region are willing to share their expertise," says Gail Randall, director of the Nonprofit Support Center. "And while learning from each other, leaders develop collegial bonds that contribute to a livelier, healthier nonprofit sector."

Jan Yost, EdD, president and CEO of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Inc., led a session on evaluation. "Participants were eager to learn about evaluation as a tool to continually improve what they're doing, not just as a way to show funders how they add value.

"These sessions are ideal for executive directors," adds Dr. Yost. "They interact with peers and learn from each other about an important topic." 🍌



Robert Johnson, PhD, president of Becker College, led the first fall 2011 session, "Branding Your Organization."

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

is a professional and compassionate steward of an ever-expanding community fund, which grows through the generosity of local people who seek to improve their communities in lasting ways.

The Foundation gives operating grants to nonprofit organizations, provides college scholarships to area high school students, and brings people together to build stronger communities. Our Nonprofit Support Center helps managers and board members use resources more effectively.

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LEE GAUDETTE: FOUNDATION FUND IS BEST WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR CAUSE FOREVER



"The Foundation has strong professional leadership and a highly skilled volunteer board," says Lee Gaudette.

Foundation board member Lee Gaudette regards his vigorous volunteer activities as integral to his professional and personal life.

"My father is my role model," says Lee, the third-generation head of the Gaudette Insurance Agency, Inc. "He was very active in community leadership, which is the classic model for a small town insurance agent. Our business is about protecting people from unexpected calamities. As volunteers, we protect the quality of life in our community."

Since joining the Foundation in 2004 as a corporator, Lee has chaired the Audit Committee and served on the Asset Development and Governance Committees. In 2010, he became an executive committee member.

"The primary distinction of the Foundation is its perpetuity," says Lee, a board member since 2006. "We can make an impact now and for decades to come.

"The Foundation is a conduit for donors

to support their cherished causes," Lee adds. "By establishing a Foundation fund, you can see to it that your special cause receives donations not just this year or the next, but for generations to come."

Citing the board's swift actions in response to the 2008 financial crisis, Lee says, "I've learned more from my fellow board members than from any other volunteer experience."

Looking ahead, Lee says, "I'm focused on helping the Foundation do even more for our community over the long haul. Since its start, the Foundation has raised \$107 million and grown that to \$120 million, and along the way given out \$75 million in grants. This is the engine that after I'm gone could distribute \$50 million in annual grants while stewarding \$1 billion in assets." 🍁