

ANGUILLA

Anguilla Community Foundation

History

The Anguilla Community Foundation (ACF) was formally established in May 1999 to provide grantmaking support to NGOs on the island nation of Anguilla, which is located in the British West Indies. It is the result of interest over time, the encouragement of local residents and visitors to the island, and the relocation of a former CEO of a stateside foundation. Support came from Victor Banks, the Minister of Finance. A feasibility study was completed by Carrolle Perry Devonish, former CEO of the Philadelphia Foundation, on the possibility of organizing a community foundation. A local Steering Committee was formed by the Office of the Finance Minister and included key decision makers on the island.

The Anguilla Community Foundation is the only community foundation on this overseas territory of 12,000 residents. The Foundation drew on friends and former colleagues to enrich the work and direction of the Anguilla Community Foundation, including international visitors.

ACF has just completed raising the challenge of US \$32,500 to meet its challenge grant from the WINGS Global Fund for Community Foundations. In total, it raised more than the US \$32,500. This means that the Foundation now has raised more than US \$500,000 in its Endowment Fund over the past nine years.

Current situation: Facts and figures

Geographic area served:	Country-wide
Population size of service area:	12,000
Total sum of grants made in 2007:	
Total number of grants made in 2007:	
Total sum of the income/ donations in 2007:	
Single largest source of income in 2007:	
Is there an endowment? Yes/No.	Yes
If Yes, the size of the endowment:	US \$500,000

Operations and staffing

The Anguilla Community Foundation currently has one part-time paid staff person. The staff person works in every aspect of the foundation: administrative, fundraising and program. The work of the Foundation is divided about 75 percent to 25 percent, between staff and volunteers, who are primarily the Board members.

Community foundation income

Income categories

The Foundation has concentrated on raising the funds for endowment challenge from the WINGS Global Fund this year. It will continue its ANGUILLA CARES effort in the months to come. The Foundation has received a new fund of US \$75,000 to create a named fund in honor of a long time Anguilla resident. It will support scholarship for students interested in veterinary medicine. The Foundation continues to hold its annual classical music concert, which raises money for the Endowment Fund.

Purposes

- Endowment fund
- Local grantmaking
- Scholarship funds

Permanent funds/Sustainability

ACF has an endowment fund now worth over US \$500,000, due in part to the matching funds raised to meet the WINGS Global Fund challenge grant.

Environment for philanthropy

Local attitudes

Community philanthropy is a challenge. There has been little organized philanthropy on the island. There is corporate giving from local businesses, including banks, hotels and the telephone company. In addition, groups raise local money. In fact there is someone or a group going from door to door raising money for emergency health care, church activities and events – almost constantly. Most NGOs are not staffed; volunteers raise funds for special issues. There are no tax advantages to those who give, as there are in the US, so fundraising is a challenge on such a small island.

Legal and tax environment

There are no legal or tax incentives for giving to the community foundation. There are few incentives, except making this a better island, but it is a difficult place to raise money. The community foundation has raised the bar, however. In March 2004 the foundation received a contribution of US \$100,000 for education from a local attorney who is handling the trust of a deceased expatriate. This gift had a major impact on the Foundation. Another recent small gift of appreciated stock was the first gift of stock. Both these gifts attracted attention and added to the appeal of the community foundation, but fundraising still is slow going.

Changing attitudes and the national or regional environment

The Anguilla Community Foundation created the Anguilla Cares campaign in an effort to encourage local Anguillians and residents to give to the community foundation. This year the campaign is going into the workplace to encourage workplace giving and boost local support: this is expected to make a real difference to the fundraising effort. Residents will probably not give large amounts, but it will help to raise local contributions and also create awareness and an atmosphere for giving. In addition the

Foundation is looking for ways to target visitors to Anguilla, many of whom are repeat visitors who love the island and come back year after year.

Current challenges and future developments

The future of the Anguilla Community Foundation and the growth of community foundations in the region look hopeful. Yet it remains a difficult challenge that will take time and energy. There are few ways to encourage support for administrative needs and the ability to add staff and resources. This is a real stumbling block. In addition, contact with other foundations in other regions is needed.

The Association of Caribbean Community Foundations, which was formed by five of the community foundations in the English-speaking Caribbean, ceased operations in 2007 due to lack of funds for operating expenses. New resources have been secured and plans are currently underway to revive the Association, but perhaps with a broader member base, consisting of all types of grantmakers in the Caribbean

The Board of ACF is exploring new leadership for the Foundation because of the decision of the director to retire. Changing leadership will bring new energy and opportunities to the Foundation, although the issue of administrative support is ongoing.

International links

The Executive Director regularly attends international meetings, such as the Council on Foundations Fall Conference for Community Foundations and the Council's Philanthropy Summit in Washington, DC this year.

Additional resources

For more information, see: www.anguillacommunityfoundation.com

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