



Case Studies of Grantmaker Associations Around the World:

Preface

Philanthropy in a Global Community is a two-volume publication of case studies on the work of grantmaker associations and philanthropy support organizations. Volume 1, *Case Studies of Grantmaker Associations Around the World*, includes seven case studies that profile ten associations supporting grantmakers at the multinational (regional), national, or subnational level. Volume 2, *Case Studies of Organizations Supporting Community Foundations*, describes the work of eight organizations that promote and support community-based philanthropy.

The purpose of this volume on grantmaker associations is to share the “stories” of the establishment and evolution of a representative group of associations and draw lessons from their experiences that will be useful for both existing and new associations in enhancing their capacity to promote and support philanthropy. It begins with an Introductory Essay by Barry Gaberman on the role and value of grantmaker associations. The essay focuses on the significant contribution these associations make to the growth of philanthropy and the expansion of civil society overall.

An Overview of the seven case studies follows the Introductory Essay. It includes a summary of the organizational characteristics of the associations and an analysis of the common challenges they have faced and ways they have addressed these challenges. The wisdom distilled from the broad experiences of these associations is drawn together at the conclusion of the Overview in a set of *Guidelines for Grantmaker Associations*.

The associations selected for the seven case studies reflect both the commonalities and the differences to be found among the more than 70 membership associations of grantmakers around the world. These associations are differentiated by geography, historical and political context, by size and type of membership, and by stages of organizational development or maturity. They are united by their common commitments to promoting philanthropy at the local, national and/or regional level and to serving the needs of grantmakers. They all aim in various ways to professionalize the craft of grantmaking and to bring new perspectives to their members regarding the art of giving money and other resources to benefit those in need.

The writing of the case studies took place in late 2001 and in 2002. In nearly all cases, the writers were either staff or board members of the associations represented. They were given a general outline for writing their case studies. The guidelines provided a common framework for telling the associations’ stories, but allowed for considerable flexibility in content and approach.

Each case study is divided into three sections. The first provides a brief history of the association and the context in which it operates. It also summarizes the organizational structure and governance of the association, how it is financed and its principal activities. The second section focuses on the issues and challenges the association has faced, how it has addressed these issues and, in some cases, its evolutionary process as an association. The final section of each case study sets forth guidelines or lessons learned about establishing and managing a membership association of grantmakers.

The writers drew on their own knowledge and experience and on that of their staff and board colleagues in preparing the first drafts of the studies. For some this was an iterative process that encouraged reflection not only on the process of establishing and governing an association of grantmakers, but also on the real progress that each has seen. The Editor worked closely with the principal writers throughout the process of producing the case studies. Second and, in some cases, third drafts of the case studies were prepared. The Editorial Committee reviewed the drafts and provided comments before a final draft of each case study was prepared for publication.

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Jayne Millar Wood, Director, WINGS, 2000-2002

WINGS is grateful for the time and commitment of the writers, the staff and board members of each of the associations that participated in this case study project. They are identified by name at the beginning of each case study. Collectively they have made valuable contributions to the repertoire of knowledge about this part of civil society. In addition, WINGS appreciates the contributions of the Editorial Committee, Barry D. Gaberman and Gaynor Humphreys, and WINGS staff members, Gina Estipona and Bill Walker, who contributed to this effort in many ways. Josie Thompson and Kathy Hensley, independent consultants who worked on this project, ensured that this book met the highest standards of design and copy editing before it was published. Finally, WINGS is grateful to the Ford Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for their generous support of WINGS and this case study project.

About the Editor:

Jayne Millar Wood served as WINGS' first Director from 2000 through 2002. Prior to her work with WINGS, she was the President/CEO of an international management consulting firm. She has worked extensively on international development issues and programs around the world and has served as an officer and member of the Boards of Directors of both grantmaking and grantseeking organizations (NGOs) in the United States.

