



Calling all WINGS-CF network participants!

Peer Learning Event on the Sustainability of Community Foundations and CF Support Organizations October 8 to 9, 2009 San Antonio, Texas, USA

Join your colleagues in the WINGS-CF network to discuss: *What actions will positively impact the sustainability of community foundations and CF support organizations especially at this time of economic crisis?*

This peer learning event (PLE) will provide a venue for participants to share knowledge and strategies in dealing with sustainability issues such as:

- ❖ The different dimensions of sustainability:
 - Deepening organizational capacity
 - Strengthening financial viability
 - Delivering on CF support organizations' value proposition to continuously meet member expectations
 - Maximizing technology
- ❖ What are the challenges faced by grantmaker associations and support organizations in managing each dimension? How are these challenges addressed under the present economic circumstances? What are examples of innovation, collaboration and partnerships, and solution-oriented approaches that can increase productivity and member satisfaction?
- ❖ What strategies can CF support organizations implement to increase the sustainability of individual community foundations and deepen the alliances between community foundations in their network?

In addition to the peer-to-peer exchange inherent in WINGS activities, participants will have the opportunity to benefit from the experience and expertise of a resource person from the field – **Nancy Jones, President and CEO of the North Texas Community Foundation** – who will start off the discussion about what sustainability of associations, networks and community foundations entails. A specialist on organizational development and community foundation growth cycles, Ms. Jones is one of the highest rated faculty members of the Center for

Community Foundation Excellence, teaching “Community Foundation Fundamentals” and “Finance and Administration for Community Foundations”.

Peer learning participants will help cull the elements that contribute to (or hinder) not only the survival but also the growth of an association or support organization. WINGS will document the PLE and produce a resource manual on CF support organization sustainability. The manual will feature exemplary practices for sustainability that can be used by both emerging and more established CF support organizations.

When and where?

The peer learning event will take place from October 8 to 9, 2009, immediately following the Council on Foundations’ Fall Conference on October 5 to 7 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. The Council on Foundations and the Conference of Southwest Foundations will co-host the peer learning event with WINGS.

*Established in 1949, the **Council on Foundations** < www.cof.org > is an Arlington, Virginia-based non-profit membership association of some 2,000 foundations and corporate giving programs. The Council is a voice of philanthropy at the national level and a valued partner globally. The Council provides the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance, and sustain their ability to advance the common good.*

***The Conference of Southwest Foundations** < www.c-s-f.org > is a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking organizations in Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas that provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and expertise among grantmakers, as well as the resources to help enhance the ability of each organization to fulfill its charitable mission. CSF maintains a library of the resources required for effective, efficient and responsible philanthropy. The year 2008 marked CSF’s 60th anniversary.*

Who can participate?

The peer learning event is open to CEOs and senior staff of grantmaker associations and support organizations in the WINGS-CF network and to representatives of community foundations they serve. For a more enriching discussion, each interested network participant is encouraged to attend together with one of the community foundations it supports. This invitation comes with two application forms: a) for grantmaker associations and support organizations, and b) for community foundations.

► **The deadline for submission of applications is June 30, 2009.**

Two working groups of volunteers from WINGS-CF and the broader WINGS network, including representatives from the host organizations, provide advice in the participant selection and in developing the detailed Agenda based on the participants’ interests and suggestions. The working groups consist of:

WINGS PLE Working Group

- Barry R Smith, Regional Director, Southern Africa, *Synergos Institute* (Chair of the working group)
- Natalya Kaminarskaya, Executive Secretary, *Russia Donors Forum*
- Lucille DiDomenico, Executive Director, *Conference of Southwest Foundations, Inc.*, USA
- Imani C. Burnett , Vice President, *Southeastern Council of Foundations*, USA
- Michael Liffman, Director, *Asia Pacific Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment*, Swinburne University, Australia

WINGS-CF Working Group for this peer learning event

- Imani C. Burnett , Vice President, *Southeastern Council of Foundations*, USA (Chair of the working group)
- Jane Humphries, Vice President, Organization and Professional Development, *Community Foundations of Canada*
- Vera Billen, Programme Officer, *King Baudouin Foundation*, Belgium
- Boris Strecanský, Executive Director, *Center for Philanthropy*, Slovak Republic
- Linda L. Raybin, Director, Community Foundation Services, *Council on Foundations*, USA
- Lucille DiDomenico, Executive Director, *Conference of Southwest Foundations, Inc.*, USA

Up to 20 participants will be accepted, ensuring wide geographic representation and a good mix of organizations at the meeting.

What will it cost?

The cost of participation would basically be the airfare and hotel accommodation for two to five nights. COF will make arrangements for a block booking at a reasonably priced hotel in San Antonio. The cost of meals for the duration of the event will be covered by the organizers. There is no registration fee.

WINGS has limited travel scholarships. We encourage peer learning participants to seek their organizations' resources or any other possible sources for travel support before applying for scholarship. Applicants can request partial scholarships from WINGS to cover a roundtrip economy airfare or hotel accommodation for up to three nights. Please note that WINGS could offer partial scholarship support to only one person per association. A separate application form for travel scholarship will be sent after participants are selected.

Peer learning participants from non-U.S. community foundations who are planning to attend both the PLE and the Fall Conference may apply for scholarship from the Council on Foundations. Information about the Council's scholarship support will be announced in the next few weeks.

It is expected that all participants, including recipients of WINGS scholarships, will pay their own miscellaneous travel and accommodation costs (e.g. visa application fees, airport fees, the cost of getting to and from airports, etc).

IMPORTANT: We would like to remind all applicants to check and attend to travel requirements for the USA as soon as the peer learning participant selection is completed in early July. *Thank you!*