

# 2011... Year in Review

WASHINGTON  
Regional Association of  
GRANTMAKERS

## Working Toward a Region United



**Strengthening relationships with public officials** – WRAG members met with public officials throughout the region to build relationships and explore new partnerships. Members met with Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova. The Public Education Working Group met with DCPS officials and the superintendents of schools in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, while the Children, Youth, and Families Working Group met with BB Otero, D.C.'s Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services, and Neil Stanley, Director of the District's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services.

**Convening partnerships** - The Working Group on Aging, together with the Community Foundation's Greater Washington Workforce Development Collaborative, the Washington Area Women's Foundation, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, convened funders, nonprofits, and government representatives through the "Quality Jobs/Quality Care" series to focus on developing a stronger direct care workforce for the region.

**Building wealth and stabilizing low-income neighborhoods** - In the spring, the Cleveland Foundation's Ted Howard met with funders, government officials, and community leaders to discuss the Evergreen Initiative – a community-based program that links worker-owned businesses with anchor organizations. The overwhelming response to that initial meeting has led to the establishment of a steering committee to look at opportunities to do similar work in our region. In November, funders visited the Evergreen Initiative in Ohio to see the project firsthand.



Funders explore the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry

## Building Expertise

**Learning from peers** – The unique Philanthropist to Philanthropist luncheon series, which gives family foundation trustees the chance to learn from their peers, sold out for the second year in a row. This year's series featured interviews with Dick Snowdon, and his daughter, Elizabeth Snowdon, Vicki Sant, and Ted Leonsis.

**Getting out of the conference room** – The Corporate Philanthropy Affinity Group coupled their learning sessions with site visits to the Junior Achievement Finance Park as well as Training Futures, Northern Virginia Family Services' workforce development program. The D.C. Public Education Learning Series took funders on tours of public and charter schools throughout the District to get a first-hand look at the challenges and opportunities facing public education.

**Making connections across sectors** – The Health Working Group convened a member-wide program on the impact of health reform on issues far beyond health insurance, including community and workforce development, aging issues, and prevention and wellness programs. And the Children, Youth, and Families Working Group is collaborating with their colleagues in the Health Working Group as they continue their learning agenda focusing on children's mental health.



**Getting ahead of the curve** - In light of the budget challenges facing local governments throughout the region and the potential impact on nonprofits and the communities they serve, WRAG convened a panel featuring local leaders and budget experts to discuss how funders can go beyond dollars to ensure that the needs of the region's residents continue to be met. And at the Annual Meeting, Dr. Jim Johnson from the University of North Carolina explored the rapidly changing demographics of our region and what the implications are for funders.

## The Voice of Philanthropy

**Spreading the word** – In conjunction with a report published by the 8 Neighbors on Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, Tamara Copeland and the Nonprofit Roundtable's Chuck Bean wrote a commentary in *The Washington Post's Capital Business* extending the call for new corporate philanthropic leadership.

**Your Daily dose of news** – The *Washington Grantmakers Daily* (<http://giving.wordpress.com>) continues to enjoy a vibrant readership as we summarize (and comment on) the relevant news of the day.

**See what we did?** With more than 30 videos, WRAG's YouTube channel lets you hear from issue experts, local leaders, and other funders about important topics whenever it's convenient for you.



## Addressing the Needs of the Region



2011 Philanthropy Fellows

**A pipeline for future leaders** - This fall, WRAG launched the Philanthropy Fellows program in partnership with the University of Maryland's Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. The program links graduate and undergraduate students to fellowship opportunities with WRAG members. Members benefit from knowledgeable and skilled fellows and provide future philanthropic leaders with the opportunity to gain practical experience, develop skills, build a network, and learn about local community needs.

**A call to action** - In conjunction with 8 Neighbors and George Mason University, WRAG released a report on the future of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae's local giving. Following the release of the report, WRAG began to explore how other corporate leaders can step up. An advisory group was established to guide how we prepare for - rather than panic over - the likely demise of Freddie and Fannie's giving.

**Mapping out a sector** - Following conversations started by the Arts and Humanities Working Group, a number of WRAG members partnered with Pew Charitable Trusts to launch the DC Cultural Data Project, a power online management tool to strengthen D.C.'s arts and cultural sector. The DC CDP, officially launched in October, allows arts and humanities nonprofits to store programmatic, operational, and financial information in a database. Participating funders and nonprofits will then have access to high-quality data to inform decision-making and effectively advocate for the sector.



CULTURAL DATA PROJECT



**Give to the Max** - WRAG joined with the members of 8 Neighbors to promote Give to the Max Day in our region. The online day of giving on November 9th raised more than \$2 million for local nonprofits.

**18 years of CDSC** - At the end of 2011 and after nearly two decades, the Community Development Support Collaborative ceased grantmaking. However, the WRAG Board is committed to affordable housing and balanced-development across the region and is exploring what a new body of work on these issues might look like in the years to come.

## Looking Ahead



**New Frame, Lasting Value, Solid Foundation** - Preparing for the future, WRAG will hold its strategic framework as its new gospel. As was sung at the Annual Meeting, WRAG will have a New Frame, Lasting Value, and a Solid Foundation.

## Fighting an Epidemic

### Helping people access care through Positive Pathways

In 2011, the Washington AIDS Partnership received a Social Innovation Fund grant from AIDS United to support Positive Pathways, a multi-year initiative aimed at linking out-of-care African American individuals living with HIV/AIDS to care in D.C. The new program has more than 15 partners, including government agencies, local clinics, and service providers.



Community Health Workers celebrate the completion of their Positive Pathways training

### HIV Prevention Female Condom Project

The Washington AIDS Partnership completed the second year of its HIV Prevention Female Condom Project, a public-private partnership between the District, MAC AIDS Fund, CVS, Female Health Company, and community grantees. This year, the Partnership funded and coordinated projects that expanded the knowledge of, access to, and use of female condoms; more than 150,000 female condoms were distributed; and over 24,000 individuals were reached through educational sessions.

2012 is WRAG's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
Watch for some exciting announcements about the various ways we will be celebrating.

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