

NFG | *Event Announcement*

**NFG Co-Sponsored Events
Council on Foundations Leadership Summit
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, MD
May 4–7, 2008**

Please join the Neighborhood Funders Group for a series of sessions that will highlight community-based efforts that improve economic and social conditions in low- and moderate-income communities.

Sunday, May 4, 2008

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Maryland A, Ballroom level

Neighborhood Funders Group Plenary Session

Poverty: A New Look At an Old Problem

The Neighborhood Funders Group is pleased to announce a very special guest who will speak at an NFG-sponsored pre-conference plenary session held at the Council on Foundations 2008 Leadership Summit in National Harbor, MD.

John Podesta will be our featured speaker and will provide an important new look at a seemingly intractable problem: poverty. With one of the highest poverty rates in the developed world, the United States has made many unsuccessful attempts to assist its most vulnerable citizens. With recent calls for a new and renewed poverty agenda, both in government and in philanthropy, Mr. Podesta will provide a fresh look on how to address poverty in the 21st century.



Podesta is the President and Chief Executive Officer of American Progress. Podesta served as Chief of Staff to President William J. Clinton from October 1998 until January 2001, where he was responsible for directing, managing, and overseeing all policy development, daily operations, Congressional relations, and staff activities of the White House. Podesta founded and is currently President of the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank in Washington, D.C. In addition to his work at American Progress, Podesta is currently a Visiting Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington. In 2007 the Center for American Progress released the groundbreaking report this week, “From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half.” The report outlines a comprehensive approach for reducing poverty with a tangible goal in mind.

Neighborhood Funders Group Issue-Focused Breakouts
3:00–5:00 p.m.

1. Community Organizing Works! (Harbor 2)

Community Organizing Works – it fits for many of us in many ways. Join us to explore how and why funding community organizing does and can fit for you. We'll hear “testimonials” from trustees, community foundations, private foundation executives and program officers from both big and small foundations – and engage YOU in exploring the ways that this work produces results for communities, families and on issues, brings meaning to the foundation boards and donors who participate, and provides a powerful voice for the least powerful individuals and communities.

Moderators:

Dave Beckwith, The Needmor Fund
Marjorie Fine, Center for Community Change

Presenters:

Gara LaMarche – President, Atlantic Philanthropies
Flozell Daniels – President and CEO, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
Sarah Stranahan – Past Chair, The Needmor Fund
Marcos Vargas – Trustee, McCune Foundation; founder, Social Justice Fund, Ventura County Community Foundation
Cris Doby – Senior Program Officer, C.S. Mott Foundation

2. What Can I Do About the Mortgage Crisis? (Harbor 3)

The subprime mortgage crisis threatens to devastate the economy and push many families into poverty. An expert panel of funders who have been on the leading edge in approaching this issue will discuss what local funders can do to address the subprime meltdown in their communities.

Moderator:

Doug Dylla, Doug Dylla Consulting, LLC

Presenters:

George McCarthy, The Ford Foundation
Laurie Latuda, The Goldseker Foundation
Wendy Jackson, The Kresge Foundation

3. A Dialogue on Poverty (Harbor 5)

With a growing income gap in America and large segments of the population living in poverty, the issues of poverty and economic opportunity need greater focus from the foundation community. In this session, NFG hopes to begin a larger dialogue on poverty and what a new philanthropic poverty agenda might look like. This session will provide the opportunity for an interactive discussion about poverty in America and what can be done about it.

4. “Trends in PRI Deal Making” - Presented by PRI Makers Network (Harbor 12)

All kinds of foundations (community, private, family, corporate) are increasingly marrying their grantmaking practice with investment strategies. For some, this might mean making a one-time loan to a grantee in a cash flow crisis. For others, it could mean investing a significant portion of the foundation's endowment toward mission-driven activities such as

environmental conservation, education, sustainable food systems, reproductive health, or economic development.

Hear from a few foundation colleagues (with diverse structures, missions, and strategies) on deals taken straight from their portfolios. Current trends include innovative direct investing and also targeted fund investing. Funders will answer questions such as: What attracted them to the opportunity? What has been the result to date? What lessons have been learned and why you might be interested in co-investing? Examples will be taken from a range of program areas and the focus will be on open discussion between practitioners and participants.

Monday, May 5, 2008

3:00–4:30 p.m.

Council on Foundations National Summit *Evaluating Advocacy Grants*

Advocacy is difficult to evaluate and measure. *Evaluating Advocacy Grants* introduces two important new tools that help grantmakers meet the challenges of evaluation and measurement. Hear from the Alliance for Justice and participants in a real-life foundation/nonprofit advocacy grant case study about using the Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool and the Advocacy Evaluation Tool. Participate in an exercise specifically designed to help you see how these tools can be applied to your own grantees.

Presenters:

- David L. Beckwith, The Needmor Fund
- Marcia Egbert, The George Gund Foundation
- Susan Hoechstetter, Alliance for Justice

*Session organized by NFG members

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Chesapeake D/E, Ballroom level Neighborhood Funders Group/ National Rural Funders Collaborative The Rural Philanthropy Network Inaugural Reception and Program

The National Rural Funders Collaborative and the Neighborhood Funders Group are working together to create and provide a “gathering space” for small and middle-sized funders—community foundations, family foundations and others—working in and supporting rural communities and regions. The *Rural Philanthropy Network* will focus on new ideas, best practices and effective funding strategies for building assets in rural areas.

The Rural Philanthropy Network will consist of a diverse group of funders, especially rural community foundations and small family foundations, that work in rural communities or are interested in funding rural areas. We hope all who are interested in supporting rural communities will join us and participate in this exciting inaugural event. This program is co-sponsored by the Council on Foundations, the National Rural Funders Collaborative and the Neighborhood Funders Group.

- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Reception (hors d'oeuvres and refreshments)
 7:20 - 7:22 p.m. Welcome: Steve Gunderson
 7:30 - 7:35 p.m. Welcome: Bettye Brentley & Jim Richardson
 7:35 - 7:40 p.m. Introduction/Background on Rural Philanthropy: Linetta Gilbert,
 The Ford Foundation
 7:40 - 7:45 p.m. Introduction of Panelists: Jill Kramer Robinson, Lumina
 Foundation for Education
 7:45 - 8:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

Growing the Role of Philanthropy in Building Rural Communities

A panel of experts will discuss the opportunities available for funders to assist in building strong, vibrant rural communities.

Moderator: Jill Kramer Robinson, Lumina Foundation for Education
 Panel: Owen Lopez, McCune Charitable Trust
 Linda Reed, Montana Community Foundation
 Sherece West, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Open Discussion

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Council on Foundations National Summit

Reconsidering Community Organizing: New Players, Perspectives and Possibilities

In this time of rapid change, many funders are discovering that community organizing's perspectives, practices and skills are more important than ever for achieving measurable results. Funders—many of whom have not historically embraced community organizing—are finding that partnering with community organizers is essential to getting the results they seek, from encouraging active citizenship to promoting larger-scale change. In this session, you will hear how funders are utilizing community organizing for three quite different purposes, and gain insights that will help you consider how you can use community organizing to increase your foundation's impact.

Moderator:
 Frank Sanchez, The Needmor Fund

Presenters:
 Laura Hogan, The California Endowment
 Kelly James, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 Luz Vega-Marquis, Marguerite Casey Foundation

*Session organized by NFG members

*The **Neighborhood Funders Group** is a national network of foundations and philanthropic organizations. Our members support community-based efforts that improve the economic and social conditions in low and moderate income communities. For more information, visit www.nfg.org, call (202) 833-4690, or e-mail nfg@nfg.org.*