

LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES

Board Bank

In partnership with the American Conference on Diversity, the Council initiated a project to strengthen board diversity in the social sector. The initiative seeks to capture and build networks of diverse professionals, businesses and community leaders providing an opportunity for board service in NJ's foundations and non-profit organizations. Building on the Council's Guiding Beliefs and Principles, "Thoughtful grantmaking is informed by different perspectives, opinions and experiences." - the Bank will ultimately provide potential matches for companies and individuals who wish to expand their community and philanthropic involvement through board membership at foundations and nonprofits. The Bank will also provide foundations and nonprofits with the ability to ensure a representative board of trustees reflective of the diversity of NJ's citizenry.

Camden Funders Initiative

With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, CNJG made great strides to expand a forum for grantmakers focused on the City of Camden. Among these resources, the Camden Funders Affinity Group was launched in February, with co-chairs Sidney Hargro, Community Foundation of South Jersey, and Amanda Bauman, Campbell Soup Foundation, providing leadership for the group. The Camden Funders Peer Network Map, a searchable, interactive, web-based map providing a visual representation of philanthropic investments in Camden City was also launched this year. Other improved resources include: the Camden Weekly News Round Up – a weekly e-compilation of news, research and articles of interest to funders working in Camden and the one-stop source area on the CNJG website complete with neighborhood plans, studies, research, and briefings, and articles of interest providing Camden funders with easily accessible and critical information to inform their work. Finally, the Camden Funders Listserve connects Camden's philanthropic community and facilitates ongoing group e-mail dialogues enabling expanded discussion, information sharing and peer-to-peer problem solving.

Facing Our Future

Following the Council's Funder Briefing on *Understanding the State Budget and How Governor's Approach It* earlier this year, a few CNJG members recognized the dire outlook for the state. They suggested the state's foundation community could be uniquely positioned to create the nonpartisan, "long-view" space needed to explore the systemic challenges facing the state and offer ideas for consideration by New Jersey's citizens and policymakers. To provide organization and critical support for this effort, several member foundations with long histories addressing statewide issues joined to foster a focused conversation that centers on two broad and complex questions: 1) how could/should our governments be structured and operate in this new century to effectively and efficiently serve the residents of New Jersey? and 2) what public investments are needed to ensure New Jersey can be and remain competitive? Understanding NJ currently has an eroded infrastructure dependent on systems, policies and priorities designed for the 20th century; these challenges require a variety of strategies and committed stakeholders. Ultimately, one of the most valuable outcomes from this endeavor will be better informed and engaged New Jersey citizens – focused on the 21st century needs of the state.

Newark Philanthropic Liaison

Since its inception in August 2007, the Newark Philanthropic Liaison has helped broker and leverage \$37 million in private sector support of public-private initiatives to enrich Newark residents. Include the federal funding, and the total reaches \$45 million. Liaison officer Jeremy Johnson continues to successfully collaborate with the Mayor's office, CNJG members, and the national philanthropic community. The results in 2010 were remarkable. Newark was one of 5 regions to win a privately-funded Living Cities award of \$15 million, to be matched by Prudential, which will provide access to health services, fresh food, and workforce opportunities in targeted neighborhoods.

Newark was also one of nine regions to win the White House's Social Innovation Fund award, which will provide \$5 million in private and public funds to replicate proven anti-poverty programs. Mayor Booker and Johnson were spotlighted in an upcoming video by the Philanthropic Awareness Initiative, which examines the growing movement to encourage government-foundation relations on local and state levels. In November, Jeremy worked with the regional funding community to help launch the Newark Funders Group, the newest CNJG affinity group. In 2011, as the Mayor broadens his focus to right-size government and engage Newarkers to participate in school reform, Jeremy will expand his portfolio to include education-related initiatives. (For additional information - see Program Highlights.)

New Jersey Convergence

Guided by the national initiative, Convergence Partnership, the Council is facilitating a planning process to establish a New Jersey Convergence Partnership with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The underlying premise - people thrive when community conditions provide an overall healthy environment - include advancing conditions that ensure these environments are possible. This multi-field equity-focused effort seeks to change policies and environments to better achieve the vision of healthy people - healthy places. The planning project is a transformative step to address these issues and ensure thriving neighborhoods in the state of New Jersey.

New Jersey Together

The landmark collaborative effort that brought the state’s philanthropic sector together as a field – completed its first undertaking this year. With grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000, 39 grantmakers came together to seed Civic Justice Corps pilots in New Jersey. Working in partnership with the Division of Criminal Justice, three organizations were awarded grants to pilot the program – The Jewish Renaissance Foundation of Perth Amboy, Isles of Trenton and The Work Group in Camden. The Corps Network, the national organization that designed the Civic Justice program, is providing assistance to each site. Independent, family and community foundations, corporate giving programs, and individual donors all participated in NJ Together. For some, crime prevention and/or youth development was clearly outside their funding priorities but they recognized the opportunity for impact that their small grants could have. Through this collaboration, CNJG leveraged \$300,000 in State funding bringing a nationally tested model program here and significantly improving the outlook for 75 court involved young people. CNJG is grateful for the coordination support from the William Penn Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Wachovia Regional Foundation.

Public Policy - Foundations on the Hill and PolicyWorks

For the past several years, the Council has successfully participated in a national “day on the Hill” for foundations and philanthropic leaders. The annual event, sponsored by the Council on Foundations and the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers, serves to share with New Jersey’s elected federal officials the work and impact of New Jersey’s philanthropic community. While in Washington D.C. for March’s annual FOTH meetings, Council members met with NJ’s Congressional and Senate offices. These meetings provide an opportunity for CNJG delegates to strengthen relationships with key staffers and emphasize the expertise funders bring to policy discussion. In an increasingly complicated and changing political environment, it is more important than ever for foundations to build and maintain relationships with state and federal officials - informing policymakers of the crucial role grantmakers play in our society. To that end, several regional associations of grantmakers across the country are also participating in PolicyWorks, a special national initiative to expand their public policy capacity and activity. CNJG is pleased to be one of those actively engaged.

Leadership Initiatives							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
NJ Gives							
South Jersey Community Foundation							
Technology Platform Upgrade							
LINK/Policy Engagement							
New Jersey Together							
Camden Funders Initiative							
Newark Philanthropic Liaison							
Corporate Curriculum Development							
Convergence Partnership							
Board Bank							
Facing Our Future							
PolicyWorks							