

The Foundation Review

Volume 13 | Issue 3

9-2021

Executive Summaries

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/tfr>



Part of the [Nonprofit Administration and Management Commons](#), [Public Administration Commons](#), [Public Affairs Commons](#), and the [Public Policy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2021). Executive Summaries. *The Foundation Review*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.9707/1944-5660.1586>

Copyright © 2022 Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. The Foundation Review is reproduced electronically by ScholarWorks@GVSU. <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/tfr>

7

Donor-Led Community Engagement: A New Model for In-Kind and Philanthropic Giving?

Jessica K. A. Word, Ph.D., and Connor Gahre, M.H.A., University of Nevada–Las Vegas

This article describes the Transformative Impact Model, an approach to donor-led giving employed by the Wynn Resorts Foundation. In support of two capital improvement projects for a pair of nonprofits in Las Vegas, Nevada, the foundation lent its expertise, and leveraged its professional network to encourage and coordinate in-kind donations and cash gifts. In addition, the foundation's engagement of leadership and front-line employees from Wynn Resorts Management in these philanthropic efforts led to new and lasting volunteer relationships with the two nonprofits.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1575

17

Lost Causal: Debunking Myths About Causal Analysis in Philanthropy

Jewlya Lynn, Ph.D., PolicySolve; Sarah Stachowiak, M.P.A., ORS Impact; and Julia Coffman, M.S., Center for Evaluation Innovation

What if philanthropic evaluations told us that changes in the world had occurred, as well as how and why they occurred, including whether what foundations funded and grantees did contributed to those changes? This type of learning comes from causal analysis — inquiry that explores cause-and-effect relationships. Currently in philanthropy, few evaluations use robust techniques for understanding causality. This article challenges the myths that hold philanthropy back from causal inquiry.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1576

30

Learning Amid Disruption: Bouncing Forward Into a Changed World

Rachel Reichenbach, Ph.D., Humanity United; Jewlya Lynn, Ph.D., PolicySolve; and Jen Heeg, Ph.D., Independent Consultant

The philanthropic sector recognizes the importance of bringing a systems lens to its work, seeking to influence upstream drivers of complex problems, and being adaptive in its approaches instead of implementing static, multiyear plans. Yet, integrating these concepts into practice continues to pose a challenge.. This article explores the journey Humanity United went through in 2020, focusing on the disruption as a moment to bounce forward rather than trying to preserve the past. They rethought their old ways of seeking to change systems and embracing the future as emergent and unpredictable. They pushed at all levels of leadership and staff to understand their role, power, and how to show up differently with their partners in the systems they collectively seek to transform.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1577

47

Assessing Philanthropic Impact: How the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Building Bridges Initiative Supported the Field of Philanthropic and Nonprofit Studies

Peter C. Weber, Ph.D., Auburn University, and Robert Long, Ph.D., Independent Fellow

In the 1990s, nonprofit management education was an emerging discipline. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Building Bridges Initiative was a \$13.5 million, five-year program to fund nonprofit academic centers as a strategy to increase the nonprofit sector's capacity. The authors analyze the results of this initiative two decades later. They found that the initiative advanced the institutionalization of nonprofit management education by legitimizing grantees both within and outside universities, supporting program delivery and expansion, and fostering collaborative networks. This study is intended to help foundations understand their impact on large-scale institutions like universities and colleges as well as on narrowly focused program areas.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1578

67

Brazilian Foundations and the Responses to COVID-19

Marcos Paulo de Lucca-Silveira, Ph.D., Pietro Rodrigues, Ph.D., Marketa Jerabek, Ph.D., and Marcia Kalvon Woods, B.A., José Luiz Egydio Setúbal Foundation; and João Paulo Vergueiro, M.A., Brazilian Fundraisers Association

Despite its resultant economic and social crisis, the pandemic has sparked an unprecedented wave of philanthropy in Brazil. It is estimated that more than \$1.2 billion has been raised and donated by corporations, corporate and private foundations, crowdfunding, and fundraising campaigns. Foundations, in particular, have played an important role in financing relevant scientific work, supporting public policies, and assisting nonprofit organizations and vulnerable communities. This article provides an analysis of the role of Brazilian foundations and their innovations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors suggests that foundations have been subject to three major innovations: use of social intelligence for the provision of donations and social goods, new technology that can coordinate fundraising campaigns and mobilize civil society support, and shifts in the modus operandi of foundations.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1579

79

Community Foundations as Community Leaders: The Role of Community Leadership in Creating Change

Colton Strawser, Ph.D., Community Leadership, Engagement, and Research (CLEAR) Institute

Community foundations claim to play an integral role in fostering philanthropy at a local or regional level across the United States, seeking to improve the quality of life for community residents. Their business model has three main components: grantmaking, fundraising, and community leadership. As the newest addition to the community foundation operating model, community leadership remains the least examined component in terms of how these foundations define and pursue it. This article seeks to contribute to the literature on the challenges and benefits community foundations encounter in pursuit of a community leadership role. Utilizing an exploratory design, interviews with leaders at 11 community foundations were conducted. The findings indicate that taking a community leadership role has a positive effect on fundraising outcomes for community foundations and elevates a foundation's local or regional profile.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1580

92

The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do it Again

Book Review by Michael Layton, Ph.D., and Tory Martin, M.A.

In this 2020 work, Robert D. Putnam and co-author Shaylyn Romney Garrett take a simultaneously broad and richly detailed look at the growth and decline of “community connectedness and social solidarity in America.” Over the past 125 years, American community feeling has experienced an “I-We-I” curve. The authors describe and document the I-We-I curve, especially the upswing that created our strong mid-century We. They explore “how America’s last upswing came to be, and hope we might engineer another one today.” The authors make a profoundly important point in *The Upswing*: Americans have come together to heal their society before, and we can do it again. What’s more, we can build something even greater. The hard work of advancing economic equality, creating greater social comity, of generating a stronger and much more inclusive community, is not the work of two individuals, no matter how insightful, but is the common challenge of us all.

DOI: 10.9707/1944-5660.1581