

Celebrating **20** *Years*

of empowering funders
to leverage their resources
and amplify their impact

Celebrating 20 Years!

Two decades ago, a group of trustees and executives from foundations with few or no staff saw an opportunity to unite for the development of our craft. Gathering at a conference under a handwritten sign reading “Are you all alone with millions?” the group met, talked, listened, and took the bold step to form an affinity group for small-staffed foundations, which became the Association of Small Foundations (ASF) and later Exponent Philanthropy.

Exponent Philanthropy is now the largest philanthropic support organization in the country and the only one dedicated to serving funders who give with few or no staff. The organization’s growth and strength is undeniably tied to the individuals who volunteered their passion, leadership, counsel, and countless hours over the past 20 years. Today we celebrate their significant contributions to our organization’s success.

In the pages that follow, you’ll hear from some of these founders and builders. We are immensely grateful for their efforts to secure our start and ensure our future.

“ I am most proud of being one of the seven founding members and later board chair, great honors and two positions I never dreamed of filling when I started in the field of philanthropy. It also was a thrill to help the organization grow to the point of getting a home of our own and staff to support the volunteers. ”



— Ervie Smith
former executive director of
The Valley Foundation

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The Kara Foundation

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Marty Fluharty
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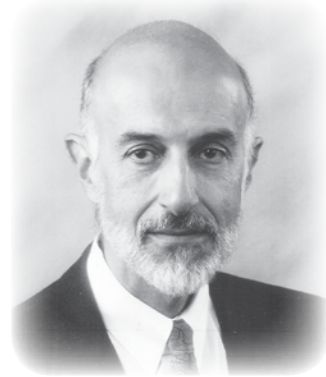
Robert DiLeonardi
1998 - 2000
VNA Foundation

Alan Egly
1996 - 1998
Doris & Victor Day Foundation



“My greatest philanthropy lesson? We are not “alone with millions.” There are now thousands in the Exponent Philanthropy community willing to help one another and advance the field of philanthropy to make this world a better place. I am very proud of the men and women I’ve been able to meet and work with who set the highest standards and have been so willing to be guides, teachers, colleagues, and listeners.”

— Marty Fluharty
The Americana Foundation



Patrick S. DeMoon
The Kara Foundation

About that time, my wife Judi and I were struggling on our own in the strange world of giving. We learned about a group, at that time the Association of Small Foundations. We made contact and with great interest eagerly read its information material. Based on what we read, we registered to attend a meeting that the organization sponsored on the campus of a Catholic seminary, just outside of Chicago, in Mundelein, Illinois.

If memory serves me correctly, it was the coldest winter weekend ever recorded. The snow never stopped falling during our entire stay, and the wind howled throughout the night as we tried to sleep on concrete beds covered with straw mattresses. It was a seminary, after all.

The Mundelein meeting was an eye-opening experience for us. We learned that we were not alone and that there were other like-minded small foundation people who believed that there was more to philanthropy than just check writing.

Coming full circle, yes, there are still some “check writers.” But what a wonderful evolution of giving for those who have become more actively involved.

There is more to philanthropy than just check writing.

Twenty years ago I thought philanthropy was nothing more than writing a check and waiting for that warm and fuzzy thank you letter. To be honest, it was that for me, and may still be for some organizations. But things changed for me 20 years ago.



Rob DiLeonardi
VNA Foundation

Exponent Philanthropy is not only existing, but thriving.

As I turned into the parking lot [for one of the association’s first meetings in Mundelein, IL], the first thing I saw was [fellow founding member] Alan Egly, waiting for me as promised, bouncing on his feet a little and radiating a sense of excitement and anticipation that I could feel before I even opened my car door. He greeted me warmly, and happily helped me carry everything in to what was to be our primary meeting space. He’d found and secured this meeting spot and was eager to show it to me. As I walked the dim, well-worn hallways and took in the scuffed walls and uber-spartan furnishings, my heart sank. We’d rented the place for a song, something like \$300, including the mess hall dinner, but its initial impression on me was not a good one.

Alan, however, was exuberant. He was in his element, brimming with anticipation and assuring me that the space was perfect. And, of course, he was exactly right. The meeting room was bright and comfortable, outside the rooms were some beautiful trees and walking paths, and, perhaps most important, the cot-like beds, 40-watt bulbs, and cold-water showers encouraged some genial jokes and a unique “we’re-all-in-this-together” camaraderie.

At some point during the meeting, we took a break, and Alan and I were alone in an elevator heading down to another floor. We were both very tired, and, as the doors closed we were silent, both staring at the floor numbers as they blinked by. Then, whether from exhaustion or excitement or fear or some combination, he suddenly burst out laughing. He turned to me and said, “Are we all crazy?” I said, “Probably,” then joined him in laughing. We were crazy, but we were also right, and the proof is the fact that Exponent Philanthropy is not only still existing, but thriving.

“The greatest impact of being involved with ASF (now Exponent Philanthropy) has been reinforcing the importance of “doing good” yet continually striving to do even better.”

— Christyne Hamilton
Albert Leroy Brown Foundation



Nancy & John Colina
The Colina Foundation

*The only thing
constant is change.*

Changes, changes, changes. “The only thing constant is change.” So we must grow and adapt, or become irrelevant. The opposite is stagnation and has no future.

As with most foundations, ours has undergone changes over the past nearly 24 years of our existence—some subtle, some not so subtle. There are three areas into which most of these changes fall: focus, geography, and governance.

So how has the field of philanthropy in general changed over the past two decades? Certainly there is more openness and more collaboration. As people began to realize that there are big issues involved, and that we can best address them by joining forces, there has been a coming together of funders large and small who all have a role to play in helping make this a better place.

What has stayed the same? The presence of caring people who sincerely want to make the world a better place, the search for better ways of doing things, and the excitement of being a part of finding solutions.

“We know that we are part of something bigger, and that the work we do, no matter the scope, is important. And it is comforting to know that answers and support are literally a phone call away.”

— Charles Fleming
The Aunt Kate Foundation



EXPONENT PHILANTHROPY'S Outsized Impact Award

In honor of Exponent Philanthropy's 20th anniversary, the board of directors created the Outsized Impact Award to celebrate individuals and organizations whose contributions and service had far-reaching effects—an outsized impact—on our association and those we serve.

The award will be presented from time to time to recognize the often quiet, behind-the-scenes work that makes our association strong.

**The board of directors is pleased to announce three
2016 Outsized Impact Award recipients:**



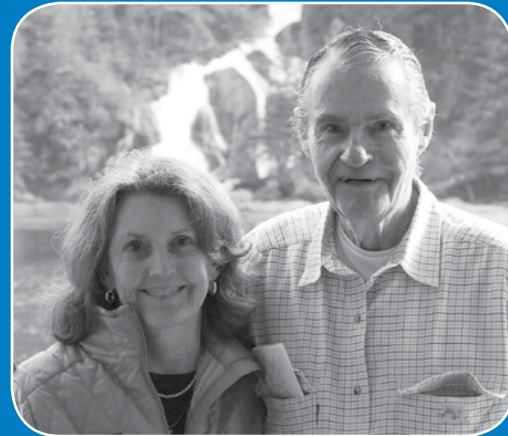
William S. White
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

William S. (Bill) White is chairman and chief executive officer of the Mott Foundation, his professional home since 1969. Throughout his career, Bill has played a leadership role in developing and strengthening community foundations and philanthropy support organizations across the United States and around the globe. In 2014, the Council on Foundations honored him for extraordinary leadership and dedication to advancing community philanthropy. A dozen years earlier, the same organization recognized him with its Distinguished Grantmaker Award, which recognizes lifetime achievement in philanthropy.

Bill was instrumental to our association's start-up and professionalization. At his urging, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation was the first large foundation to provide funding to the then Association of Small Foundations, allowing the organization to hire its first professional staff. Bill was an early believer in our founders' vision, recognizing the important role of our member community. The Mott Foundation's support has been constant throughout our 20 years, and we are indebted to Bill for his initial leap of faith.

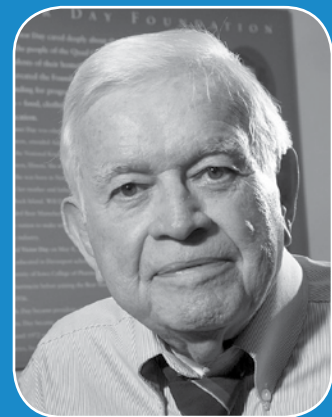
Winsome McIntosh & Michael McIntosh (posthumous)
The McIntosh Foundation

Winsome McIntosh has more than four decades of experience in the philanthropic community. She has served on the board of The McIntosh Foundation since 1972, and is a founder of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties in Florida and the Kappa Delta Private Foundation. She is also founder of Rachel's Network, a membership organization of leading women philanthropists interested in the issues of environment, women and children's health, and women's empowerment. Her late husband Michael lent to The McIntosh Foundation his creative vision, passion for justice, and deep sense of civic responsibility.



Together with Alan Egly, Winsome and Michael were instrumental in creation of the Small-Staffed Foundation affinity group that was our start, and then the Association of Small Foundations, including incorporation and approval for tax exempt status with the IRS. As long range planning commenced, Winsome lent her expertise in operations, membership, and volunteer management, including serving as the association's first executive director; Michael lent his complementary expertise in finance and law.

Winsome and Michael also provided key early funding and the organization's first "home." The McIntosh Foundation has remained our supporters for the past 20 years and has provided invaluable guidance along the way.



Alan Egly (posthumous)
Doris & Victor Day Foundation

The late Alan Egly was ordained to The Church of God in 1959 and served parishes throughout New York State and later Davenport, Iowa. He entered community ministry in 1987 and served as executive director of the Illinois-based Doris & Victor Day Foundation from 1987 until his retirement in 2014.

Alan served as our association's first board chair and worked in concert with Winsome and Michael McIntosh to establish the small-staffed foundation affinity group that was our start, and then the Association of Small Foundations. Alan was one of the organization's most vocal advocates and personally responsible for securing the association's initial funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. He is remembered by his peers as an unabashed, engaging force who guided the organization with his strong ethics, principles, and priorities. True to his character, Alan was author of the now infamous handwritten sign that started it all: "Are you all alone with millions?"



Floyd Keene
The Triple EEE Foundation

*Great resources, great conferences,
and great, helpful people.*

Exponent Philanthropy's previous National Conference was held in 2014 in Washington, DC, and one story tells it all. I was in the exhibit area and ran across a colleague who I had met through Exponent Philanthropy. She is far younger than I, but I always find her close to brilliant in seeing issues and suggesting solutions.

As we talked, I related a current problem facing our foundation: One of our grantees—which does amazingly good work—was having problems with its administration. My colleague suggested we consider a grant earmarked solely to pay for back office help.

My young colleague did not tell me anything I had not already thought of. But hearing it from her helped me focus, and consider doing it in a rather unique way. In the end, we wound up giving the largest single grant we have ever given—and it was for administration. Today, we are absolutely elated with the results.

The above story is Exponent Philanthropy in its essence, an association that provides great resources, great conferences, and, most important, access to great, helpful people—staff and peers alike.

Happy 20th anniversary, Exponent Philanthropy. Thank you for 20 years of helping me run my foundation more wisely, shrewdly, and efficiently than I ever could have done without you.



"The association's greatest impact is most definitely the people: connections made, which have had a profound impact on me both professionally and personally."

— Heather Carroll
The Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation



Janis Reischmann
Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation

*The answers come from those
around me and many times from
a collection of people.*

I worked for a community foundation in 1996, and we were just beginning to understand different ways donors could structure their gifts. We were exploring donor advised funds and considering how they might impact our work and the field. Since then, the variety of giving structures has evolved and grown in some very meaningful ways. In part, Exponent Philanthropy's name change in 2014 (from Association of Small Foundations) is a reflection of the changing organizational forms of philanthropy and a desire to recognize and embrace the evolving forms and structures for carrying out philanthropic intent.

At a personal level, I have changed in my understanding of my various roles in philanthropy and the value I bring to those roles. Twenty years ago I thought if I could just be the smartest person in the room I would be a valuable asset because I would have all the answers. Now my greatest value, generally, is asking meaningful questions and figuring out how to frame issues. The answers come from those around me and many times from a collection of people.

The foundation I work for today, Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Although I wasn't associated with the foundation 25 years ago, I can tell by reading its corporate records how much it has evolved and grown as well.

In my time with the foundation, we've gone from one staff person to five; our board has grown; we've added grantmaking initiatives; and we've begun mission investing. With each evolution, we have found from Exponent Philanthropy another set of offerings, resources, or member connections that helps us meet these newly identified needs and opportunities. For that responsiveness, we are grateful.

We can only imagine what the next 20 years will bring.

Invest in Our Future

Support our 20th Anniversary Campaign

As we celebrate our association's 20th anniversary, we also are looking forward to ensure its future. To honor Exponent Philanthropy's important work, the legacy of the Association of Small Foundations, and the essential efforts of all our members, we launched a 20th Anniversary Campaign this spring to build on our success and invest in our future.

The 20th Anniversary Campaign seeks to raise \$200,000 above the amount our annual campaign raises every year to cover general operations—and we are pleased to report that, with generous contributions from members like you, we are nearing close to our goal. If you have contributed, thank you! If you haven't yet contributed, please consider doing so by the end of 2016.

The funds will allow for new programs and services that deliver additional value to our community. In particular, the additional resources will enhance our ability to provide technical assistance to members.

Exponent Philanthropy relies heavily on member support beyond dues, and your consistent investment in our association and our member community is greatly appreciated.



“ Looking to the future, my hope for the organization is continued relevance, adaptability, responsiveness, and growth. ”

— Rob DiLeonardi
VNA Foundation

Thank You

to the early supporters of our 20th Anniversary Campaign

List of supporters as of August 8, 2016

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Please help us exceed our campaign goal

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