

To: Board of Visitors  
Executive Committee  
Center Advisory Boards

From: Patrick M. Rooney, Interim Executive Director

Date: October 31, 2008

Subject: Center on Philanthropy Activities

### **Media Interests**

Over the past few weeks, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University has responded to numerous media requests for insight, direction, and hard data during the recent economic instability. Our broad research base has proved helpful at these times of fiscal uncertainty. A recent highlight from Giving USA takes a look at recession years from the last four decades. We notice variation in the market effects on giving in different subsectors; some are hit harder than others. Although markets may drop more, on the average giving only decreases by one percent in these years. The best indicator of this year's effect won't come until year end, but the current volatility will undoubtedly take its toll. The Center has been able to shed some light on the situation and share meaningful information with the public through such news outlets as WISH TV 8, *TIME*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *Nature*, *Indiana Business Journal*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and many more.

### **Representing the Center**

In my new role as the Interim Executive Director, I have represented the Center at a number of national meetings. I presented at the Council on Fundraising conference in Bedford, NH, and the National Conference on Planned Giving in Denver. I attended a White House conference on volunteerism, and joined a group of leaders from around the sector for discussion at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society's "Conference on Foundations: Impact & Policy" in New York. I also was a participant at the National Committee on Family Philanthropy's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum in Washington D.C.

### **The Fund Raising School**

In other areas around the Center, The Fund Raising School's (TFRS) contract programs continue their international outreach with courses offered this month in Dublin, Ireland, and India. We have also welcomed international associates of the United Way of America to a TFRS training here in Indianapolis. TFRS's Eva Aldrich participated in Item Writing Training for CFRE International as a subject matter expert and member of their Exam Committee.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has created a \$500,000 bequest to establish *The Fund Raising School Excellence Fund* at the Center on Philanthropy. The donor has invited the Center to use the gift to offer donors a one-to-one match for new gifts totaling up to \$500,000, bringing *The Fund Raising School Excellence Fund* endowment to \$1 million. The fund will strengthen faculty recruitment and training, help produce more research backed "best

practices,” and make training accessible to more practitioners in new ways. We are grateful for this generous and visionary gift.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Center wrapped up its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a reception for sector leaders and Center friends in New York, hosted by the Board of Visitors immediate past chair, Gail Freeman, and her firm Freeman Philanthropic Services LLC. Stephanie Strom, national correspondent for *The New York Times*, shared comments on philanthropic trends and questions she believes will need to be addressed in this unsettling economic climate and Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie shared his insights on the support of higher education through philanthropy. We are grateful to Stephanie, President and Laurie Burns McRobbie for joining our celebration.

The New York reception concluded the 18-month, six-city celebration. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary events would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors and donors. Four Platinum level sponsors – David A. Noyes & Company, Eli Lilly and Company, Grenzebach Glier & Associates, and McCormick Foundation – had half of their contributions matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in support of the Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS). In addition to these four sponsors, we acknowledge the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as a Platinum level donor as part of its Arizona-Indiana-Michigan (AIM) Alliance grant. More than 25 organizations with a long history of partnership with the Center were Silver and Bronze level sponsors and donors, and we thank every one for their support.

### **Alumni Networking**

This fall, the Center on Philanthropy Alumni Association launched a new initiative called “Dinner with Philanthropists.” During these dinners, two alumni jointly host a group of current students in their home for dinner. The evening serves as a networking opportunity for students and helps alumni reconnect with the Center. Center alumni Kelly McNeely and John Carreon recently hosted seven students. Students brought their unique backgrounds to the table and had a healthy discussion of their expectations for the program. The alumni provided valuable counsel and helpful suggestions for internship possibilities. Many thanks to Kelly and John for kicking off the first dinner. We look forward to several more already scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

### **Lake Institute**

The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving welcomed its Fall distinguished speaker, Dr. Eboo Patel. A rising leader in the voluntary sector, and founding Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), Dr. Patel addressed students and faculty on campus about his burgeoning organization. IFYC promotes interaction among youth of various religious backgrounds, hoping to create more appreciation for those of differing faiths, and combat the religious strife that seems to dominate current world views. He made presentations to different groups during his brief visit. We were pleased that a group of visitors from Russia were able to attend one of his sessions. The Center hosted these guests for a discussion about the nonprofit sector in the United States. The Monitor Institute hosted this group of individuals from eight Russian universities who are interested in learning about the U.S. nonprofit sector as they establish a religious-based foundation in their homeland.

## **Annual Report**

Our Annual Report is out, thanks to all who worked on this year's extraordinary edition. This year we experimented with the format by telling the stories of individuals and charities who have been affected by the Center and its programs. Please let us know what you think of the approach. You can access the report online at: [http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/About/docs/annualReport\\_2007-2008.pdf](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/About/docs/annualReport_2007-2008.pdf)

Thank you for your support and leadership as always. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions for our work at the Center. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming board meeting next week.