



The Center on Philanthropy
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Executive Summary
Million Dollar List
Fourth Quarter 2008

The Center on Philanthropy compiled a list of **573 gifts of \$1 million or more in the fourth quarter of 2008** that were announced in various newsletters, newspapers, and other publications. This is an increase of over 19 percent from the 480 gifts reported in the third quarter of 2008. There was 1 gift for disaster relief in the fourth quarter of 2008, and 11 gifts were given for disaster relief in the third quarter of 2008. After removing these gifts from the counts, the change is from 469 to 572 gifts, which is an increase of 22 percent. The following summary shows the changes in donations from the previous quarter and previous year to the fourth quarter of 2008.

The tabulation of million dollar gifts is estimated by Arthur C. Frantzreb, creator of the original Million Dollar List, to be one-fourth to one-half of the gifts actually consummated during the quarter. Gifts to health care, religious organizations, cultural institutions, social service agencies and other organizations are not reported in a systematic way by any one source.

Changes from the Third Quarter 2008 to the Fourth Quarter 2008

- The number of gifts from individual donors decreased from 170 to 163, or a decrease of over 4 percent. There were no gifts from individuals to disaster relief in either quarter.
- The total number of corporate, foundation, and other institutional gifts increased from 310 to 410, or by over 32 percent. In the fourth quarter of 2008 there was 1 gift for disaster efforts, and there were 11 disaster gifts in the third quarter of 2008. Without the disaster relief contributions, the change is from 299 to 409, or an increase of almost 37 percent. Of the 410 gifts in the fourth quarter of 2008, there were 11 gifts from other institutions not included as corporations or foundations (such as graduating classes, unions, or fraternal organizations) on which further comparative analysis is not included.
- The number of corporate donations grew from 70 to 76, or by almost 9 percent. There were 9 corporate donations for disaster relief in the third quarter of 2008, while in the fourth quarter of 2008 there were no corporate donations for disaster relief. With those gifts excluded, the change is from 61 to 76, or an increase of almost 25 percent.
- The number of foundation gifts grew from 228 to 323, or almost 42 percent. There were 2 foundation gifts for disaster relief in the third quarter of 2008, while there was 1

disaster gift in the fourth quarter of 2008. Without the gifts for disaster relief, the change is from 226 to 322, or an increase of over 42 percent.

- The number of gifts from all donors combined grew from 480 to 573, or over 19 percent. Excluding gifts for disaster relief from the fourth and third quarters of 2008, the change is from 469 to 572, an increase of 22 percent.

Changes from Fourth Quarter 2007 to Fourth Quarter 2008

- The number of gifts from individual donors decreased from 270 to 163, a decrease of about 40 percent. There was one gift for disaster relief in the fourth quarter of 2007, and none in the fourth quarter of 2008. Excluding those gifts, the change was a decrease from 269 to 163, or by over 39 percent.
- The number of corporate, foundation, and other institutional gifts increased from 380 to 410, or almost 8 percent. There were 8 institutional gifts for disaster relief in the fourth quarter of 2007 and 1 in the fourth quarter of 2008. With these disaster relief gifts excluded, the change is from 372 to 409, an increase of almost 10 percent. Of the 410 gifts in the fourth quarter of 2008, there were 11 gifts from other institutions not included as corporations or foundations (such as graduating classes, unions, or fraternal organizations) on which further comparative analysis is not included.
- The number of corporate donations fell from 82 to 76, or by over 7 percent. There were 6 corporate gifts to disaster relief in the fourth quarter of 2007, and none in the fourth quarter of 2008. Excluding disaster giving from corporations, there was no change.
- The number of foundation grants rose from 285 to 323, or over 13 percent. There was 1 foundation gift for disaster relief in the fourth quarter of 2007, while there was 1 disaster gift in the fourth quarter of 2008. Excluding these gifts, the change is from 284 to 322, or an increase of over 13 percent.
- The total number of gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other donors fell from 650 to 573, which is a decrease of almost 12 percent. Removing all disaster relief gifts from the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2008, the change is from 641 to 572, a decrease of almost 11 percent.

Announced gifts of a million dollars or more tend to be concentrated in higher education. From descriptions provided in the press about the purpose of a gift and the name of the recipient organization, the gifts announced in the fourth quarter may be categorized as follows in Table 1. This is an approximation based on the best information available.

Table 1**Allocation of gifts of \$1 million and above as a percentage of the number of gifts and of the dollar amount of the gifts, fourth quarter 2008**

Type of recipient	Number of gifts	Percent of total number	Dollar amount	Percent of total dollars
Higher education	244	43	2,540,516,883	62
Other education (K-12, libraries, tutoring, etc.)	47	8	236,149,050	6
Health	50	9	258,631,764	6
Arts, culture, humanities	48	8	157,273,666	4
Overseas recipient	29	5	115,973,748	3
International affairs, development, relief	22	4	73,229,712	2
Human services	23	4	43,398,972	1
Public-society benefit (federated campaigns, human rights, civil liberties and civil rights, scientific & social science research, community foundations)	73	13	348,171,933	9
Government agency (other than school)	8	1	30,050,000	<1
Environment (zoos, animals, climate)	20	4	81,889,274	2
Foundations	3	<1	83,200,000	2
Religion	6	1	136,087,525	3
Recipients in more than one subsector or organization name(s) not specified	0	0	0	0
Total*	573	*	4,104,572,527	*

* percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

More information about these gifts and about the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University can be found at <http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu>.

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“Increasing the understanding of philanthropy, improving its practice,
and enhancing participation in philanthropy.”