

# EXAMPLES OF MISSION STATEMENTS

#### THE PATRICK AND AIMEE BUTLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

The mission of the Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation is to provide support for solid, progressive ideas in the areas of —

#### Arts & Humanities

The Foundation has an interest in making arts and cultural programs accessible to all communities. Funding will be given to organizations that emphasize artistic quality, reflect diversity of their community, and demonstrate stable programming, within the following areas: *Historical Societies*, primarily in Ramsey County; *Humanities Organizations; Museums; Theatres* - with operating budgets of less than \$1.5 million.

#### Environment

The Foundation seeks to preserve and promote stewardship of the natural environment for present and future generations. Support will be given to programs that positively impact environmental quality and encourage citizen participation in environmental issues. Giving will be limited to programs or projects operating in Minnesota which address one of these priority issues: Water Quality of the Upper Mississippi River watershed; Environmental Education Institutions; or Land Preservation and Use.

#### Human Services

The Foundation has a special concern about the condition of women and children in this society, and particularly those living in poverty. The Foundation seeks to foster a supportive environment for these women, and all families, in order to ensure children's healthy development. Priority will be given to efforts that enhance individuals' and families' ability to break dependencies and to achieve self-reliance within the following areas: *Abuse* - including violence, pornography and prostitution; *Chemical Dependency; Housing; Children, Youth, and Families.* Strategies which offer both practical help for those in need and advocate for systems change will be favored.

## Philanthropy & Civic Affairs

The Foundation provides support to *Philanthropic Organizations* committed to social change; organizations that enhance the effectiveness of the nonprofit sector; and Civic Organizations that enhance the vitality of the community and encourage the participation of under represented groups in civic affairs.

## Foundation Initiative Fund & Special Projects Giving

Through the Foundation Initiative Fund and Special Projects giving, the Board of Trustees invites proposals from pre-selected organizations. All programs funded through the Foundation Initiative Fund fall within the Foundation's program areas and priorities, however, grants outside of Minnesota and modest capital and endowment grants are allowed. Special Projects giving will allow the Foundation to make larger grants, possibly in collaboration with other funders. Unsolicited applications will not be accepted for the Foundation Initiative Fund or Special Projects Giving.

## LOIS AND RICHARD ENGLAND FAMILY FOUNDATION Mission and Goals

Much of the Foundation's support for human services reflects its interest in comprehensive services that enable a low-income family or individual to become self-sufficient, to live independently, or provide employment and training to move toward the goal of independence.

In education, Foundation grants focus on pre-school, elementary and secondary education, as well as enrichment programs, particularly for children in underserved communities.

Arts and cultural program support is directed at local institutions, especially organizations with community outreach. Access to arts education for disadvantaged children is a key interest. Board members have a strong commitment to strengthening Jewish life in the United States and in Israel. Local grants support core community institutions; grants in Israel focus on peace and religious pluralism, and human rights. National Jewish grants support educational efforts to combat racism and anti-Semitism, as well as to support anti-poverty work.

## JOSEPH AND CLAIRE FLOM FOUNDATION Statement of Purpose

The Joseph and Claire Flom Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking foundation which began active operation in 1990. The purpose of the Foundation is to seek out, initiate, and provide seed money for innovative educational programs, particularly those designed to improve education for economically and socially disadvantaged youth. The principal focus of grants will be in the Northeastern United States, Chicago, and Washington, DC. The Foundation supports tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations engaged in educational activities which can serve as national models for replication.

Toward this end, start-up grants to new programs and grants for innovative projects of established organizations are a priority of the Foundation. The goal is to strengthen the nation's educational systems by stimulating new approaches to learning; promoting community and family involvement in the child's education; developing innovations in curriculum design; replicating successful innovative projects; and supporting an educational environment which can build self-esteem through competence. The Foundation's primary focus will be on programs for gifted disadvantaged children and youth, and programs designed to promote tolerance and understanding and counter prejudice among the young.

The Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable corporation existing under the New York and Illinois not-for-profit corporation laws and is classified as a private foundation as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

## GAIA FUND: INFORMATION FOR GRANTSEEKERS About Gaia Fund

Gaia Fund is a private charitable foundation based in San Francisco that was established in late 1994. The founding family members administer the Fund and serve as its sole trustees. As of December 31, 1999, Gaia Fund had assets of \$14,072,200 and had distributed grants totaling \$977,850.

#### **Funding Priorities**

Gaia Fund considers grant requests that fall within either of the following two programmatic areas:

- The environment
- Jewish life

Grants are usually within the range of \$10,000 to \$25,000. Strong preference is given to requests for projects that (a) operate in and around San Francisco, and (b) have annual operating budgets of under \$2 million. Gaia Fund does not make grants to Jewish day schools or Holocaust-related projects. Applicants must be tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **GROTTO FOUNDATION MISSION**

The mission of the Grotto Foundation is to benefit society by improving the education and the economic, physical, and social well being of citizens, with a special focus on families and culturally diverse groups. The foundation is further interested in increasing public understanding of American cultural heritage, the cultures of nations, and the individual's responsibility to fellow human beings.

Grotto's mission is achieved by helping communities determine their own futures. Grotto works with people from communities of different ethnic groups and cultures who are inspired by their sense of vision and possibility. Grotto aims to assist these communities as they move in directions that they have determined are appropriate for their particular group. Grotto supports projects and programs that empower people to chart their own course. The Foundation's board and staff believe that support of self-determination ultimately benefits the health of the broader community.

This mission is now embedded into the Grotto logo, underscoring the Foundation's name with the words: Community, Family, and Understanding.

#### Hope

Grotto defines the core value of hope as belief and confidence in new possibilities. Hope nurtures trust, fuels the capacity of people to commit themselves to working for a common good, strengthens interpersonal and group connections, and helps people define their vision. By bolstering hope, opportunities are created to celebrate mutual understanding. This is the distinctive realm of Grotto's grantmaking.

#### Hospitality

Grotto understands that true hospitality includes accessibility, dialogue, faith, trust, determination, guidance, support, accountability, and grace. Hospitality provides Grotto with a disciplined commitment to the responsibilities inherent in being a community agent of change. The core value of hospitality frames our best practices in governance, management, and all collaborations at Grotto.

## GILBERT AND JAYLEE MEAD FAMILY FOUNDATION MISSION

The Mead Family Foundation partners with local tax-exempt organizations which effectively address community needs. Its program priorities derive from the active involvement of family board members in their own communities: Washington, D.C.; Montgomery County, Md.; and Geneva, Switzerland. In general, the Foundation supports projects that enrich the lives of youth by strengthening families, educating children in grades K-12, or promoting education and outreach in the performing arts. It seeks visionary leaders — staff and volunteers — who develop innovative projects producing significant results.

# SURDNA FOUNDATION Our Approach to Grantmaking

We are interested in fostering catalytic, entrepreneurial programs, which offer viable solutions to difficult systemic problems.

We seek, as well, high quality, direct service programs which advance our philanthropic goals.

We enjoy collaboration with our grantees and seek to work with them in supportive, collegial relationships.

We recognize the importance of collaborating with other foundations to build joint, diverse programs and to leverage our funding with that of other foundations, corporations, and governmental bodies.

We make both project and general support grants. We do not generally fund individuals, capital campaigns, building construction, or projects that are internationally based or focused.

### We are committed to:

- Respecting those seeking grant monies by demonstrating promptness, courtesy, responsiveness and objectivity in assessing how their grant requests meet our philanthropic goals.
- · Communicating honestly and directly with those seeking support.
- Demonstrating both accountability to, and support for, our grantees after a grant is made.