

THE OSCAR G. & ELSA S. MAYER FAMILY FOUNDATION

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February, 2015

A Belated Happy New Year to All My Fellow Oscar & Elsa Mayer Family Foundation Members!

My best wishes to us all for a happy, productive and joyous 2015!

There were many components to 2014 which have led us to an interesting beginning to 2015. We had another good year with our Early Childhood initiative. We made awards to all seven grant applicants and were even able to “pre-fund” four of them, meaning that they were pledged the full two or three years of funding they requested, albeit pending confirmation of performance against their stated performance objectives. The other three were only funded for one year, even though they may have asked for two or three years. As a result, we did not “carry over” any funding commitments from the 2014 ECI applicants, which lessened the restrictions on our 2015 funds.

Similarly, the AIF grant applicants had a good year. There were eight proposals and following a very rigorous review, analysis and discussion, four were funded in 2014 for a total of \$145,534, while a fifth was proposed to be funded at the beginning of 2015 for \$50,000, pending submission of a couple of documents that it had not yet provided to the Foundation. The documents were subsequently made available and the funding will take place at the beginning of February. The organizations funded were:

- Art for Learning : \$25,000
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: \$61,634
- International Development Exchange: \$30,000
- Longmont Restorative Justice Program: \$28,900

- Enterprise Community Partners: \$50,000 in 2015

Other notable events in 2014 were the Annual Membership and Board meetings in October in Milwaukee and an agreement to move forward with the creation of a new website, the fundamentals of which were presented to members after the Board meeting by Michael Roberts, of Michael Roberts Design, who is doing the conversion work. Additionally, Michael heard other good ideas, some of which he will incorporate into Phase II of the project. Also during the meeting it was decided that we would consolidate the 2015 meetings into one day, instead of the two that have been the rule over the past few years. While that may reduce the sense of going to a “destination” for the weekend, it may also allow more participants

to avoid missing a day of work or school on one end of the meeting or the other. With any good fortune, it will both reduce costs and increase participation; at least we can hope that will be the case.

In addition to those activities, during the meetings it was proposed and agreed that the Foundation would plan to allocate its charitable giving roughly within the follow structure:

- ECI 45%
- AIF 35%
- Family Philanthropy 25%

Finally, at least relative to the Annual and Board meetings, the Board agreed to invite Letters of Interest from six potential administrative partners with the hope that we can identify someone to help streamline our grant application process, search the marketplace for the “best in class or field” and recommend to us those who are not only doing excellent work but who are able to show us how they are performing, much as the Ounce of Prevention has for many years. Brother/Cousin Osc has led this initiative, along with Hal and Rick, and we are in the midst of exchanging feedback with those from whom LOI’s were requested. More on this as the search progresses.

As to 2015, the “new” ECI grant application process is well under way, with 10, and possibly 11, applications in the works. That is a significant increase over last year, which is, in many regards, good news, although it may mean that we have to say “no” to more applicants this year than last. So be it, as each application stands on its own merits. The due date this year for the Early Childhood Grant Application is March 31st, meaning the application and all the required information will have to be in the Foundation office **NOT LATER THAN MARCH 31ST**. The general schedule for nominations, proposals and the EC review and award process, as well as the AIF program, is on the Foundation’s website, should anyone wish to keep abreast of the timing of our important activities and due dates.

We are all urged to become engaged with the Foundation by contributing ideas, opinions and, most importantly, recommendations for organizations that match our Mission and Vision, both for our primary Early Childhood mandate and for our developing Alternative Investment Fund initiative. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to get involved with the good work in which your forebears and many of your current kin have already invested.

And, as we’ve been saying in every recent newsletter, it’s not too early to think about making decisions on your personal designation and matching gifts for this year!! The sooner you get them in the better, especially as the **cutoff date for 2015 matching is September 15**, just as it was in 2014.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2015!

Bill