

WHAT CHILDREN REALLY NEED

REMARKS BY

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## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE MEET AT AN UNUSUAL AND OPPORTUNE MOMENT.

NOT JUST BECAUSE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS UNDERWAY.

BUT BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN MY MEMORY AT LEAST IN WHICH

THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN ARE BEING SO VIGOROUSLY PUSHED TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE POLITICAL STAGE. JUST LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, THE

NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED A REMARKABLE SERIES OF FOUR EDITORIALS ON CHILDREN'S ISSUES REplete WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT THE NEXT PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS CAN

DO TO IMPROVE THE LIVES AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN AMERICA.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IT IS, OF COURSE, TOO  
SOON TO KNOW IF THE RHETORIC OF THIS  
CAMPAIGN SEASON WILL GROW INTO THE  
SUBSTANCE OF NEXT MARCH AND APRIL;  
WHETHER, AFTER MANY YEARS OF BENIGN NEGLECT,  
THE CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY WILL INDEED BE  
ACCORDED THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE ON  
THE AMERICAN POLITICAL AGENDA.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IF THAT DOES HAPPEN, MANY OF YOU WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SHAPE AND DEFINE THAT AGENDA, TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PUTTING THE AGENDA INTO PRACTICE. SOME OF YOU MAY EVEN FIND YOURSELVES PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE AND ASSERTIVE ROLE THAN YOU ONCE THOUGHT POSSIBLE -- BOTH PERSONALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY. I CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE OBVIOUS QUESTION AND THE FOCUS OF MY REMARKS THIS AFTERNOON:

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHY WAIT UNTIL NEXT  
YEAR:

REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MONTH, OR  
NEXT MARCH OR APRIL, IT IS NOT TOO SOON  
FOR THOSE OF US INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S  
ISSUES, AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN,  
TO BEGIN DEVELOPING OUR OWN POLITICAL  
STRATEGIES. IT IS NOT TOO SOON FOR US TO  
GIVE A CHILDREN'S AGENDA SOME STRUCTURE  
AND CONTENT. IT IS NOT TOO SOON TO  
ORGANIZE OURSELVES INTO COALITIONS THAT  
CAN WORK TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. IT IS  
NOT TOO SOON TO ENLIST OTHERS IN THESE  
EFFORTS.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IT IS NOT TOO SOON BECAUSE THE COUNTDOWN  
TO THE 21ST CENTURY IS WELL UNDERWAY.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, WE HAVE LOOKED AT  
THE YEAR 2000 AS A BENCHMARK OF OUR  
PROGRESS AND SHORTCOMINGS. WHAT HAPPENS  
IN ANY SINGLE YEAR OBVIOUSLY IS NOT GOING  
TO SET THE ENTIRE NATION ON AN  
IRREVERSIBLE COURSE.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**BUT ON THE OTHER HAND,  
THE 21ST CENTURY NO LONGER IS AN  
ABSTRACTION. IT IS A REALITY, A REALITY WE  
CAN SEE IN CLASSROOMS ALL ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY. THOSE YOUNGSTERS WHO TOOK THEIR  
SEATS IN THE FIRST GRADE A MONTH AGO  
BELONG TO THE CLASS OF 2000. THEY WILL BE  
THE FIRST GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
TO GRADUATE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE ALREADY KNOW, AS A RESULT OF DATA DEVELOPED BY THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND, THAT ONE IN FOUR OF THESE YOUNGSTERS IS POOR, ONE IN FIVE IS AT RISK OF BECOMING A TEENAGE PARENT, AND ONE IN SEVEN WILL BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT -- PROBABLY BEFORE HIS OR HER JUNIOR YEAR. NOT AN AUSPICIOUS START.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHETHER WE CAN TURN THOSE NUMBERS AROUND TO ANY APPRECIABLE DEGREE IN THE NEXT 12 YEARS AND BEGIN TO SET A DIFFERENT AND MORE PROMISING PATTERN IN MOTION.



## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IT'S GOING TO BE AN  
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK, MUCH MORE  
DIFFICULT THAN WE ONCE IMAGINED.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN REASONS FOR THIS.

THE FIRST IS OUR OWN HISTORY OF RESPONDING  
-- OR FAILING TO RESPOND -- TO THE NEEDS  
OF THE DISADVANTAGED, PARTICULARLY DURING  
THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE TALK A GOOD GAME. WE TALK AN ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL GAME. ALL-STAR QUALITY, IN FACT. WE USE THE CORRECT WORDS IN OUR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, MAKE SOARING AND IMPASSIONED PLEAS IN OUR EDITORIALS. BUT EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN THE SIXTIES WHEN WE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED A RANGE OF PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROVIDING ALL CHILDREN WITH A RELATIVELY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN LIFE, OUR PERFORMANCE HAS NOT MEASURED UP.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OUR GOALS, WE TELL OURSELVES, ARE TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POOR, DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CYCLE OF POVERTY CAN BE BROKEN, AND MAKE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.

IN POINT OF FACT, HOWEVER, WE FAIL TO FULLY FUND THE HEAD START PROGRAM, PLACE LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS, AND LIMIT THE CHAPTER I ASSISTANCE WE PROVIDE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**OUR INFANT MORTALITY RATES ARE A NATIONAL TRAGEDY.**

**THE BUDGET DEFICIT USUALLY IS CITED AS THE REASON WE DO NOT DO A BETTER JOB OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THE POOR. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR SPENDING EFFORTS RIGHT NOW, WE SAY. PERHAPS LATER WHEN OUR FISCAL POSITION CAN SUSTAIN MAJOR OUTLAYS.**

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ONLY LATER NEVER

SEEMS TO COME. AND IN THE MEANTIME, THE CHILDREN OF POVERTY, WHO DID NOT CREATE THE DEFICIT IN THE FIRST PLACE, CONTINUE TO PAY FOR IT.

I DON'T THINK THE DEFICIT IS OUR REAL PROBLEM. OUR REAL PROBLEM IS THAT DESPITE ALL OUR RICHES AND OUTWARD SIGNS OF SUCCESS AND WELL BEING, WE HAVE LOST OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY, COHESIVENESS AND COMMON PURPOSE. WE HAVE LOST THE BOND THAT ALL SOCIETIES NEED IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM THEIR FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS INTO SOCIAL AND MORAL GROWTH.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE HAVE LOST OUR CONNECTION TO THOSE  
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS:

- WHOSE BACKGROUND IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS,
- WHOSE LIFESTYLE IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS,
- WHOSE NATIVE LANGUAGE IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS, AND
- WHOSE EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM OURS..

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IF THE AMERICA OF THE 1950'S CAN BE VIEWED AS THE "LONELY CROWD", TO RECALL THE PHRASE SOCIOLOGIST DAVID REISMAN MADE FAMOUS, THE AMERICA OF THE 1980'S IS FAST BECOMING THE "ISOLATED CROWD."

THE SECOND REASON THE TASK BEFORE US WILL BE SO DIFFICULT IS BECAUSE THE POVERTY IN WHICH SO MANY CHILDREN ARE LIVING HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SEVERE AND OPPRESSIVE AND INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THE OVERALL POVERTY RATE HAS BEEN HOLDING STEADY AT 14 PERCENT. THAT'S HARDLY ENCOURAGING NEWS, ALTHOUGH SOME FIND SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT IT IS A LITTLE LOWER THAN IT ONCE WAS.

BUT LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING BENEATH THE SURFACE:

- THE "POVERTY GAP", THE AMOUNT BY WHICH THE INCOME OF THE POOR FALLS BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, IS LARGER THAN AT ANY TIME IN 27 YEARS, EXCEPT FOR THE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT YEAR OF 1983.



## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- THE PROPORTION OF POOR WHO FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR IS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN MORE THAN A DECADE.
- THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR IS WIDER THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN.
- THE POVERTY RATE AMONG YOUNG FAMILIES IS INCREASING FASTER THAN ANY OTHER AGE GROUP.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- THE PROPORTION OF YOUNG MEN WHO COULD NOT EARN ENOUGH TO KEEP A FAMILY OF THREE ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE INCREASED FROM 42 TO 60 PERCENT BETWEEN 1974 AND 1983.
- THE POVERTY RATE AMONG YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN DOUBLED DURING THE SAME PERIOD AND BY 1985, NEARLY HALF OF ALL YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN LIVED IN POVERTY.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ALL THE OLD FACTORS ARE AT WORK HERE --  
AND SO IS A NEW ONE. OUR ECONOMY IS  
UNDERGOING A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT. THE OLD  
MANUFACTURING ECONOMY OF THE PAST HAD THE  
CAPACITY TO ABSORB AND ACCOMMODATE LESSER  
SKILLED WORKERS. THE NEW SERVICE-  
TECHNOLOGICAL ECONOMY DOES NOT. IT  
GOBBLES UP EVERY HIGHLY TRAINED AND  
WELL-EDUCATED PERSON, BUT IT HAS NO ROOM  
FOR THE SEMI-SKILLED, THE LESSER SKILLED  
AND THE UNSKILLED. THE FANCY NAME FOR  
THAT IS STRUCTURAL POVERTY.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**WITHOUT QUESTION, ALL THESE FACTORS, BOTH  
NEW AND OLD, HAVE PRODUCED A POVERTY  
UNLIKE ANY WE HAVE KNOWN BEFORE AND UNLIKE  
ANY THE POOR HAVE KNOWN BEFORE. THIS  
POVERTY IS MORE OPPRESSIVE AND MORE  
STIFLING. IT IS A POVERTY IN WHICH  
CHILDREN OFTEN END UP WORSE OFF THAN THEIR  
PARENTS.**

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY HAS BEEN BUILT AROUND ONE BASIC IDEA: TOMORROW'S GENERATION WILL DO BETTER THAN TODAY'S. THE POOR BELIEVED THAT IDEAL AS WELL. THAT'S WHAT HELD US TOGETHER AS A NATION WHEN LOGIC AND EVENTS SEEMED TO DICTATE THAT. WE WOULD TEAR OURSELVES APART.

BUT IF THOSE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ECONOMIC LADDER NO LONGER BELIEVE THE CHILD'S FUTURE HOLDS MORE PROMISE THAN THE PARENT'S PAST, WE WILL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE INDEED. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MAY BE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE ARE HEADING.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WITH PROBLEMS LIKE THESE, WE DON'T HAVE  
MUCH OF A CHOICE ANYMORE. THESE AREN'T  
MATTERS THAT AFFECT ONLY CHILDREN, THOUGH  
**CHILDREN OFTEN ARE OUR PRIMARY CONCERN.**

THESE ARE PROBLEMS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIRECTION OF THE  
NATION.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THEY ARE MATTERS THAT FORCE US TO ASK HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN TOLERATE A DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH AND CONTINUOUS POVERTY RATE; HOW MUCH LONGER THE SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THAT ABOUNDS SO VIVIDLY IN OUR URBAN AREAS AND WHICH OFTEN REMAINS HIDDEN IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE; HOW MANY MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL NOT EVEN REACH THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY, LET ALONE WALK THROUGH THEM.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ALL OF US KNOW THIS IS A HERCULEAN TASK.  
BUT WE ALSO KNOW WE ARE LONG PAST THE  
LET'S-DO-IT-WHEN-WE-GET-AROUND-TO-IT  
STAGE. WE ALSO KNOW WE CANNOT LOOK FOR  
MICROWAVE SOLUTIONS. THIRTY MINUTES ON  
"HIGH" MAY WORK FOR FOOD, BUT IT DOESN'T  
MEAN A THING WHERE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
POLICY IS CONCERNED.



## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE CANNOT TRIVIALIZE THE TASK BEFORE US. THE 21ST CENTURY IS GOING TO BE THE ULTIMATE TEST OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, THE PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE GOOD ON OUR PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY, EQUALITY AND EQUITY OR SUFFER SOME SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. WE SIMPLY CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO ALLOW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT RECOGNIZED AS EQUAL PARTICIPANTS IN OUR SOCIETY, EITHER BY THEMSELVES OR BY OTHERS, TO GROW ANY LARGER.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT TEARING DOWN OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND STARTING OVER. I'M TALKING ABOUT STARTING WHERE WE CAN MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE AND THEN BUILDING ON THOSE SUCCESSES.**

**THE MOMENT CERTAINLY SEEMS RIPE, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR AN INTENSIVE NATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE EARLY LIVES OF CHILDREN; TO PUT INTO OPERATION, ON A MUCH LARGER AND MORE EXTENSIVE SCALE THAN BEFORE, PROGRAMS WE KNOW CAN IMPROVE THE ODDS THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE DISADVANTAGED TODAY WILL HAVE A BETTER FUTURE TOMORROW.**

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### **THE AGENDA FOR THAT EFFORT COULD INCLUDE:**

- 1. ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE FOR ALL PREGNANT WOMEN.**
- 2. ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN AMERICA.**
- 3. FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE WIC PROGRAM AND SIMILAR STATE PROGRAMS.**
- 4. IMMUNIZING EVERY CHILD AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**
- 5. MAKING QUALITY DAY CARE ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO MUST WORK.**

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

6. EXPANDING HEAD START AND CHAPTER ONE  
TO ALL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.

7. EFFECTIVE TEENAGE PREGNANCY  
PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

NOT A RADICAL PROPOSAL IN THE BUNCH. JUST  
A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED,  
WOULD PROVIDE US WITH THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT  
TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN THAT WE  
HAVE TALKED ABOUT FOR SO MANY YEARS -- BUT  
WHICH WE HAVE NEVER REALLY HAD.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

PUTTING SUCH A PROGRAM INTO OPERATION WILL REQUIRE A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON OUR PART. IT WILL REQUIRE THAT WE NOT LOOK AT THE PROGRAM AND ITS COMPONENTS IN TERMS OF WHAT WE THINK WE CAN AND CANNOT DO, BUT THAT WE LOOK AT THIS PROGRAM IN TERMS OF WHAT CHILDREN ARE LOSING, INDEED WHAT WE ARE ALL LOSING BY NOT INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE.

OUR NATIONAL FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE FACT THAT RIGHT NOW, ONE OF EVERY FOUR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX IS GROWING UP DEPRIVED DURING THE MOST CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTAL PERIOD OF THEIR LIVES.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THESE ARE THE YEARS WHEN THE BASIC FOUNDATION IS DEVELOPED FOR ALL THE PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH THAT IS SUPPOSED TO OCCUR IN LATER YEARS.

IF A CHILD DOES NOT GROW AS TALL AS HE OR SHE MIGHT HAVE GROWN UNDER BETTER CONDITIONS, WE CANNOT GIVE BACK TO THAT CHILD THE HEIGHT THAT WAS LOST.

IF A CHILD'S ABILITY TO LEARN IS IMPAIRED BECAUSE OF POOR NUTRITION, WE CANNOT PROVIDE THAT CHILD WITH THE BRAIN CELLS THAT FAILED TO DEVELOP.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IF A CHILD ENTERS SCHOOL WITH A LOW SENSE OF SELF-ESTEEM AND PERSONAL WORTH BECAUSE OF THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH HE OR SHE GREW UP OR BECAUSE THAT CHILD WAS DENIED

EMOTIONAL SUSTENANCE, WE CANNOT REVERSE TIME AND START OVER.

THESE YEARS AND THIS DEVELOPMENT IS IRREPLACEABLE. WHAT IS LOST DURING THIS TIME IS LOST FOREVER.

SO FAR WE HAVE TALKED ONLY ABOUT BROAD, FAR-REACHING SOCIAL POLICY.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHAT ABOUT THE LEVEL ON WHICH YOU AND  
SPEND MOST OF OUR WORKING DAYS? HOW DO WE  
BECOME A PART OF THIS? ARE WE RELEGATED  
TO THE STATUS OF CONCERNED OBSERVER, OR IS  
THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO HELP SHAPE  
EVENTS?

IN ALL CANDOR I DON'T BELIEVE THAT PRIVATE  
GRANTMAKING INSTITUTIONS CAN MAKE A  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LIVES  
SIMPLY BY FUNDING SERVICES. COLLECTIVELY  
OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE INADEQUATE TO  
THE NATIONAL NEED.



## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IN LARGE MEASURE, HOW WE RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF POOR CHILDREN IN AMERICA, WILL BE DETERMINED BY GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING. AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND FUNDING PRIORITIES ARE IN TURN SHAPED BY PUBLIC OPINION AND VOTER PREFERENCE.

IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICA, GOVERNMENTS -- FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL -- ARE THE 600 POUND GORILLAS, AND IT IS UTTER NONSENSE TO WISH THESE GORILLAS AWAY. THEY ARE GOING TO BE THE DOMINANT FORCE IN OUR LIFETIME AND PROBABLY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S LIFETIME AS WELL.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IT SEEMS TO ME, THEREFORE, THAT FOUNDATIONS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN IN AMERICA HAVE TO THINK THROUGH THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR. IF WE PURSUE OUR MISSION WEARING A SET OF BLINDERS WHICH PREVENT US FROM RECOGNIZING THE DOMINANT ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, WE WILL IMPERIL OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND CONSIGN OURSELVES TO THE PERIPHERY.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH TRYING TO TRAIN A 600 POUND GORILLA, AND THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH A PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION USING SOME OF ITS RESOURCES TO SHAPE THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF OUR GOVERNMENTS.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE GRANTMAKING COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BECOME MORE ACTIVE, VOCAL, ASSERTIVE ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN IN THE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING ARENA.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

THE WORLD OF PUBLIC POLICY MAY BE COMPLEX AND MURKY AT TIMES. BUT IN THIS DAY AND AGE, AN UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PUBLIC POLICY PROCESS, AND A WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN IT, IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

I SUSPECT MANY OF YOU ARE ALREADY MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. IF YOU ARE, YOU PROBABLY ARE EMPHASIZING GRANT PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS WHICH SEEK TO ELEVATE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SHAPE PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT CHILDREN IN POVERTY, OR WHICH PROVIDE SOLID ANALYSIS OF THE SALIENT ISSUES AND POLICY OPTIONS, OR EVEN MORE ASSERTIVELY YOU MIGHT BE SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF ADVOCACY PROJECTS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN'S NEEDS.

ALL THAT IS GOOD. IT DESERVES TO BE COMMENDED AND CONTINUED.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BUT IT MAY NO LONGER EVEN BE ENOUGH TO  
FUND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT  
ADVOCACY PROJECTS IN OUR BEHALF. AS  
IMPORTANT AS THAT IS, IT IS STILL IN ITS  
OWN WAY AN ACT OF VENTRILOQUISM.

I THINK WE CAN DO EVEN MORE.

WE CAN AND WE SHOULD BECOME ACTIVE AND  
ASSERTIVE ADVOCATES OURSELVES. TO PUT A  
NEW TWIST ON AN OLD PHRASE, WE HAVE TO PUT  
OUR MOUTHS WHERE OUR MONEY'IS. WE NEED TO  
START USING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CREDIBILITY  
IN ADDITION TO OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO  
PURSUE THE GOALS WE HOLD MOST DEAR.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE NEED TO SPEAK OUT DIRECTLY WHEN WE SEE SITUATIONS THAT ARE INTOLERABLE. WE NEED TO TAKE UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC STANDS ON ISSUES AND TO COMMUNICATE THEM WIDELY, TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND FUNDING PRIORITIES, TO MEET WITH LEGISLATORS, TO PLAN WITH ADVOCATES.

IN SHORT, WE NEED TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED IN THE PUBLIC DEBATES! AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT MAKING YOUR NEIGHBORS OR COLLEAGUES FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT A NEW LEVEL OF OUTSPOKENNESS. IF MORE ADULTS FELT UNCOMFORTABLE, PERHAPS FEWER CHILDREN WOULD BE IN POVERTY.

## GRANTMAKERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IN CONCLUSION THEN, MY MESSAGE TO  
YOU IS THIS: IT'S TIME FOR US -- AS  
GRANTMAKING INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE LIVES AND LIVING  
CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN -- TO  
DEVELOP NEW OPERATING STRATEGIES.

THE OLD STRATEGY WAS THAT WE COULD  
DO GOOD BY GIVING AWAY MONEY.

THE NEW STRATEGY MUST BE THAT IF WE REALLY  
MUCH MORE THAN GIVE AWAY MONEY.

THANK YOU.