

FUNDERS  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT  
AIDS

1987-2007



FCAA launches this logo in 2007 to commemorate its 20th year.



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Since its founding in 1987, FCAA has worked diligently to foster an enhanced and truly meaningful grantmaker response to HIV in the United States and abroad. We work just as diligently and thoughtfully towards creating meaningful opportunities for public-private and other multi-sectoral strategic collaborations. With the leadership and support of so many colleagues, FCAA has been a critical actor in dramatically increasing the level of philanthropic involvement in HIV/AIDS.

A twentieth anniversary event is certainly an opportunity to acknowledge the successes we have achieved two decades, to recognize the staff and board members who have worked so diligently and conscientiously to strengthen FCAA, and to thank all those who have supported us financially. However, it is also a time to remember those we have lost to HIV/AIDS, and to reflect upon the fact that it would have been better had the need for FCAA vanished altogether during the past twenty years.

As we all know, FCAA was founded during a time when a new disease was ravaging our communities, and there was a deafening silence in place of a response from the government. Twenty years later, the epidemic persists, albeit with a different face. AIDS has expanded beyond its initial populations, cutting across the boundaries of nation, gender, and class. Globally, the disease continues to devastate entire societies throughout the world. The U.S. epidemic is growing, thanks in part to a politicized "morality" that insists on prevention practices that experience has shown to be ineffective, even dangerous.

The brutal fact is that the disease thrives today wherever the social and economic situation is dire: in the poorest parts of this country and the world. The problem is one of inequity and injustice, especially since the cost of life-prolonging medicines makes them inaccessible to the vast majority of people in the world living with HIV. The work of FCAA to mobilize philanthropy to address this inequity is more critical than ever.

On FCAA's 20th anniversary, we make a wish that we don't see another twenty years, and a pledge that we will remain committed to this fight for as long as HIV/AIDS continues to plague our world.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sunita Mehta".

Sunita Mehta  
*Executive Director, 2005-Present*

First FCAA memo from Joyce Bove to Steering Committee

FCAA's first publication is released: *A Funders Guide to AIDS Grantmaking: Action Strategies*

From time to time, grantmakers confront an issue in their own lives that they are in a position to do something about. That was the case when AIDS arrived on the scene 25 years ago. Program officers and others in the initial high incidence cities — New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC—were stricken with AIDS. They and their colleagues witnessed firsthand our government's indifference.



Richard Turner, Joyce Bove, and Michael Seltzer.

Government inaction served to rally this handful who came together as the nucleus of what quickly became Funders Concerned About AIDS. As our colleagues and loved ones became sick and died, our concern shifted into high gear and seeded collective action. We could no longer stand by while the fight against the nation's soon-to-be number one public health threat was being financed solely by raffle ticket sales. Philanthropy had to take its place at the table to support the hundreds of AIDS service, prevention and advocacy efforts that were mushrooming across the country and around the world.

My own awakening occurred in 1985 in the unlikeliest of settings — Paris, France. For my beloved friend, Bob White, the city of lights was a place of sadness. He had left his loved ones in the United States and flown to Paris to seek treatment at the Institut Pasteur. Dr. Luc Montagnier was conducting clinical trials of the experimental drug HPA-23. For Bob and the handful of Americans who had also flown to Paris, there were no assurances that the drug would work. Yet they chose to stay for the weekly treatments for what could be an unlimited period of time. Bob recruited his closest friends, including me, to be his care partners for two-week intervals in what, after 120 days, would turn out to be a lost cause. Bob and the other men of the summer of 1985, including Rock Hudson, would each die within months of each other. Their brave fights ended.

It fell to those who had been spared AIDS's deadly grasp to find ways to stem the pandemic's devastation. For those of us in the field of organized philanthropy, our purpose was self-evident — to educate our foundation and corporate colleagues to the disease's consequences and to enlist them in funding AIDS-related efforts. The message was simple—while AIDS was not any one's subject area, it was within every one's fields of interest. Whether one's funding interests were public health, housing, civil liberties, medical research, criminal justice, women, the arts — there were opportunities and organizations worthy of support that were integral to the nation's and the world's response to the pandemic.

The same passion and energy that drove a small circle of grantmakers 20 years ago has expanded to hundreds over the years, and now carries Funders Concerned About AIDS forward into another quarter century of philanthropic activism — the ties that still bind.

Michael Seltzer  
*Founding Executive Director, 1987-1995*

16,488 people with AIDS die this year, bringing the number of total deaths since 1981 to over 41,000. 29,105 people are diagnosed with AIDS in 1987 alone

AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed on the National Mall

U.S. government mails 107 million copies of "Understanding AIDS" by Surgeon General C. Everett Coop

1989

1990

FCAA presents Humanitarian Leadership Award to the NAMES Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt)

FCAA publishes *AIDS, Public Policy, and Philanthropy*



“In the name of compassion for the untold hundreds of thousands of persons who will be diagnosed with AIDS in the coming years — and for the sake of those who love them, work with them, and care for them — foundation and corporate grantmakers can must do more.”  
*A Funder’s Guide to AIDS Grantmaking: Action Strategies*

Joyce Bove,  
*Founding Chair, 1987-1993*

Top: AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed at the Council on Foundations Top Right: Annual Conference; Michael Seltzer and Joyce Bove, Founding Chair Above: Betty Wilson, Vincent McGee, Judy Simpson, Geri and Stanley Radley

AZT is introduced

Ryan White dies; Congress passes the Ryan White CARE Act

1989

1990

1991

1992

FCAA launches "If you fund..." ad campaign

FCAA hosts "HIV/AIDS Public Policy & Advocacy: A Training Institute for Grantmakers"



Fred Silverman, former Board Chair, speaking at Russ Radley Award Ceremony

Getting involved with FCAA was an important stop on my journey of connecting my personal life and passions with my work in the field of philanthropy. As a funder at the time of getting involved with FCAA (at Apple) I was immersed in that heady period of getting private philanthropy to come out of the closet and acknowledge the impact of HIV/AIDS in both our immediate workplace as well as in the broader community.

Encouraging Apple to get involved — which it definitely did — led to my serving on the board of Funders and then becoming its board chair.

I remember those early board meetings as the most energized, informative, and passionate meetings I've ever attended. I felt we were pioneers, funders, advocates, and even a bit of a conscience in the philanthropic world.

If I can point with pride to any one activity, it was overseeing the first edition of *AIDS Is Your Business* — the first copies of which I retrieved in the bowels of the Hilton Hotel in New York minutes before a board meeting.

Congratulations on keeping the spirit and work going so strong.

Fred Silverman  
*Board Chair, 1995-1999*



Worldwide HIV infection count reaches 10 million

FDA approves combination drug therapy

1991

1992

1993

1994

FCAA publishes *International AIDS Grantmaking*

FCAA launches "This Might Be the First Industry to Die of AIDS" ad campaign



R.A. "Russ" Radley was a pivotal founding member of FCAA. He was also a founding member of the New York City AIDS Fund and founding Executive Director of Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA). A passionate grantmaker and an activist at heart, Russ challenged FCAA to be creative, dynamic grantmakers and more aggressive advocates for the rights of people living with HIV / AIDS.

*Russ died of AIDS-related illness in January 1994. We miss him.*

Top Left: Russ Radley,  
Top Right: (L to R) Marsha Bonner,  
Richard Turner, Irene Crowe,  
Nick Bollman, Betty Wilson,  
Carmen Price, Kim Hamilton,  
Fred Silverman, Paul DiDonato,  
Ruth Shack, Peter Teague,  
Len McNally, Vincent McGee

FCAA honored Russ Radley with an award in his name from 1995 to 2000. Recipients of this award include:

- 1995 Betty Wilson
- 1996 Joyce Bove
- 1997 Vincent McGee
- 1998 Judy Simpson
- 1999 Joe Christina
- 2000 Janice Nicklas

The movie *Philadelphia* is released;  
Tom Hanks wins Oscar® the following  
year

UNAIDS  
is created

1993

1994

1995

1996

FCAA co-sponsors the White House Conference on AIDS

FCAA publishes first *AIDS Is Your Business* report with the Centers for Disease Control



(L to R) Vivian Beetle, Len McNally, Richard Turner, Fred Silverman, Stephen Foster

It was the worst of times, but it was, in its way, the best of times.

AIDS emerged in the early 1980s as one of the worst of times in America. The country was frightened. It was frightened of a “plague” about which little was known. And it was frightened by the people who were infected and dying.

But it was also one of the best of times because, as it has always been on so many issues that challenge society, philanthropy was in the forefront responding to the AIDS pandemic with reason and leadership. Michael, Joyce, Russ and many others helped mobilize the philanthropic response to AIDS with Funders Concerned About AIDS. The hope was to calm the fears and help all of us in philanthropy as we struggled to find appropriate and strategic responses.

Early on in FCAA’s life, I was invited to join the national steering committee. For that invitation, I am forever grateful. FCAA gave me the opportunity to connect my professional life in philanthropy with a health crisis that was tearing my personal community apart and killing my friends. And while I would like to think that I came to FCAA for the ultimate “good,” I know I came for very personal reasons.

After many years on the steering committee, I was asked to succeed Joyce as chair. How does one fill those shoes? And those shoes were high heels! I did it by trying to emulate Joyce’s example, her vision, her integrity and her compassion. I did by trying to make sure that Michael and the staff had the board and support they needed for the critical work of FCAA.

Two years later, I had another pair of large shoes to fill, but at least they weren’t heels! I followed Michael as the second executive director of FCAA. With the wonderful support of the steering committee headed by Fred Silverman and with an incredible staff that included Simon Lee, Chris Yu, Sue Ming, and Pauline Reinish we forged ahead. During the next two years, we incorporated FCAA as a stand along 501(c)3, we published *AIDS Is Your Business*, we co-sponsored the White House Conference on AIDS and took that show on the road with regional briefings throughout the country. We continued to have an important presence and high visibility at the Council on Foundations Annual Conferences and our Russ Radley Receptions at those conferences were where we came together from all over the country to reconnect — and to re-energize our commitment.

I’ve been away from the FCAA board for nine years now but I hope that I will never be away from that vision of a strategic response that become a reality, the values articulated, the lessons learned and that wonderful family we formed in those early years.

President Clinton establishes Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

Richard Turner  
*Executive Director, 1995-1996*  
*Board Chair, 1993-1995*

*TIME* names Dr. David Ho “Man of the Year”

1995

1996

1997

1998

FCAA begins working with UNAIDS

FCAA hosts "Building Strategic Partnerships to Fight Global HIV/AIDS" at White Oak

For me there are so many stories and recollections reminding me of the tremendous value of FCAA to the HIV/AIDS movement and the field of philanthropy as well as the incredible commitment of the many board members, committee members, staff, interns and consultants with whom I worked while I led the organization for eight years.

In the midst of all of the great meetings, dialogues between AIDS organization leaders and grantmakers, and FCAA publications and presentations, as I wrote this my mind wandered back to September 11th. The staff was all in the office that day, watching what was going on not only on the television but right out one of our windows. The level of caring and concern for each other that day and in the days and weeks that followed made it all seem less like a work place and more like a family (in the best sense of that word). That spirit continued in the coming days as so many non-New Yorkers on the Board reached out to FCAA staff and Board in New York.

The commitment to the issue and the organization was further demonstrated when we all made a unanimous decision to go ahead with a Board meeting in California only a few short weeks later. We all knew that what we were doing mattered and needed to go on — perhaps even more than before. HIV infections and deaths had not gone down nor programs enhanced because of what happened that day, so the work just had to go on.

Paul Di Donato  
*Executive Director, 1997-2005*



Top: Paul DiDonato, former Executive Director, at FCAA's "Domestic Philanthropy Summit on HIV/AIDS", Bottom: Ben Plumley, Jane Hughes, Paul DiDonato at White Oak meeting

CDC reports annual decrease in U.S. AIDS deaths

First large scale human trials for HIV vaccine begin

1997

1998

1999

2000

FCAA publishes *Philanthropy and AIDS: Assessing the Past, Shaping the Future* based on Gallup survey results

FCAA, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and David and Lucile Packard Foundation meet with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



(l to r) Fred Silverman, Paul Di Donato, Len McNally,

We didn't want to be here twenty years later. But we are here and we are still needed.

Len McNally  
*Board Chair, 2000-2004*

FUNDERS CONCERNED ABOUT AIDS | ∞

HIV infections in Russia explode due to injection drug needle sharing

UN Security Council declares HIV / AIDS in Africa a security threat to world stability

1999

2000

2001

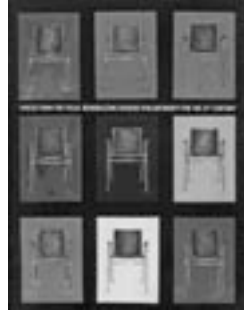
FCAA publishes *Voices from the Field: Remobilizing HIV/AIDS Philanthropy for the 21st Century*

2002

FCAA publishes *First Resource* Tracking report



Stuart Burden



I was drawn to Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) by a need to talk to other grantmakers grappling with HIV/AIDS. Who's doing what? How do I make AIDS fit within my foundation's giving guidelines? How can I get my hands on good information that's already been synthesized?

From the beginning, FCAA has been the most reliable source of comprehensive data about what's happening (first) in the United States and (later) internationally around grantmaking and the HIV pandemic. Calls continue to come in from all directions looking for, among other things, names of AIDS grantmakers; convincing arguments to use with reluctant Board members and foundation leaders; and contact information for local organizations providing high-quality services. Interestingly, many large institutions like UNAIDS, the European Foundation Center, and USAID turn to FCAA, a much smaller organization, to help them with funding and resource questions.

Fielding these various requests is a fantastic staff. FCAA has been fortunate to attract and build an incredibly smart, creative and dedicated team. As an organization is only good as its people, FCAA continues to draw together a staff with diverse backgrounds who work hard for several years and then go on to leadership position in the field.

Guiding FCAA's work has been an extraordinarily engaged Board of Directors with whom it has been a pleasure to serve. In the best sense, they are dissatisfied, impatient, and provocative. I've often said that FCAA's Board meetings are an opportunity for me to get my roots watered so I can return energized to the struggle.

Seeking to mobilize AIDS resources is daunting, vexing, and sometimes frustrating. Working with Funders Concerned About AIDS, however, inspires optimism and hope. The struggle to end HIV can and will be shaped by visionary and committed organizations like FCAA.

Stuart Burden  
*Board Member, 1995-Present*

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan calls for AIDS spending on developing countries to be increased to \$10 billion

USAID announces its ABC strategy

2001

2002

2003

2004

FCAA continues to foster development of the European HIV/AIDS Funders Group



Top Right: Board members Anu Gupta, Rene Deida, Caroline Roan at "Domestic Philanthropy Summit on HIV/AIDS"; Top: "One" ad, 2004, Middle: "Domestic Philanthropy Summit on HIV/AIDS", Bottom: Ruth Shack and Irene Crowe

FCAA hosts "Domestic Philanthropy Summit on HIV/AIDS"



I will always remember how becoming a member of FCAA such a great change in my life. At the beginning of the pandemic I felt an overwhelming sense of loss as friends began to die and I had no idea how to begin fighting HIV/AIDS. I had just joined philanthropy with a very small foundation and very large lack of experience. I wanted passionately to help and did not have a clue how to do this. I did not know any philanthropic colleagues in the DC area — actually at that time there were very few. I joined with Sisters and Allies, a women of color group started by my friend Lilly Allen, and just sat there listening and learning. I learned in so many ways but I still had no idea about how to make grants that were helpful. What a tremendous difference in my life and my work occurred when I met Michael and the other board members of FCAA in those early days. Their passion, commitment, and the special bond among us all made me realize that I had come home.

Irene Crowe  
Board Member, 1987-Present

WHO announces "3 by 5" plan

"Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS" chosen as theme of 2004 World AIDS Day

2003

2004

2005

2006

FCAA co-hosts "Dialogue About Collaborative Funding" at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto



Beth Darmstadter at "Domestic Philanthropy Summit on HIV/AIDS"



Arriving to my first FCAA board meeting close to eight or so years ago, I wondered what on earth I was doing at a national board meeting related to AIDS philanthropy. Yes... I knew HIV/AIDS from a local funding perspective and from a direct service perspective, but what did I know about the entire scope of AIDS philanthropy?

What I have learned from my FCAA colleagues is (1) that being a part of this organization is much more than governance related matters — it is about being part of a group of committed individuals who care deeply about people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world and, (2) that one's professional role can certainly overlap with one's personal life and sometimes, that is not a bad thing. The people I have worked with over the past eight years have become much more than colleagues. They have become friends who have helped me grieve, celebrate, and worry about the work I am involved in but also, the challenges in my everyday life, and (3) that as long as the world's community continues to fight the battle against HIV/AIDS, organizations that mobilize philanthropy such as FCAA must continue to exist in order to direct valuable resources to the communities that need them.

Beth Darmstadter  
Board Chair, 2004-Present

CDC announces that African-Americans account for half of all people now living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.

Warren Buffett pledges \$31 billion to the Gates Foundation

2005

2006



Desiree Flores

I have never really known a life without AIDS. I was a toddler when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued its first warning about an emerging illness that soon became known as AIDS. I was in grade school when Funders Concerned About AIDS was born. 20 years later, I am extremely proud to serve as a board member of this vital organization.

As a Program Officer at the Ms. Foundation for Women, I support groups that are led by and for women living with HIV/AIDS to do community organizing and advocacy to influence policy change. I would not be able to do the work that I do without the Funders Concerned about AIDS network. FCAA members understand that AIDS is not just about a medical illness. It is, at its very core, a social justice issue. The people on the front lines of this war are oftentimes young, low-income and of color who are battling so many other issues in addition to HIV/AIDS.

Philanthropy is a crucial part of any movement. FCAA serves funders who have a huge impact on the path of AIDS organizing and, consequently, people's lives. As an "under-30" funder, FCAA is the first major organization I've held a board position on. It has meant so much to me to converse and strategize with fellow board members and funders through this network. FCAA members represent the most thoughtful, innovative and passionate funders I have come across. They, too, have been on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic and continue to forge ahead because there just is no other choice.

Desiree Flores  
*Program Chair, 2005-Present*

Ryan White  
CARE Act  
funding is  
increased, still  
below amount  
needed to care  
for people living  
with HIV/AIDS  
in the U.S.

## Funders Concerned About AIDS

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