



ARIZONA GRANTMAKERS FORUM

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AGF Releases New Report on Charitable Giving in Arizona

Feb. 2, 2011 (Phoenix, AZ) – In 2008, Arizona foundations made grants of more than \$653 million, an increase of 45% since 2006, according to the *2010 Arizona Giving Report*, a recent study published by Arizona Grantmakers Forum (AGF). The report, which is based on the most recent comparable tax data available, provides an in-depth look at the philanthropic sector in Arizona, including information on statewide foundation, individual, and corporate giving.

“The economic meltdown which began in 2007 had a significant negative impact on the philanthropic sector across the U.S.,” says Marissa Theisen, President and CEO of AGF. “The good news is while individual Arizona foundations did experience a decline in assets, the overall adverse impact was tempered by the relocation of a few sizeable foundations to our state and the increased endowment of a few others.” It is also important to note that Arizona philanthropic sector is still relatively small, with our state ranking 40th in private assets per capita, she says.

A recent study by the Foundation Center suggests that after several years of cost cutting, foundation operations have stabilized and that “giving by U.S. foundations is poised for modest overall growth in 2011.”

Now more than ever, the philanthropic sector in Arizona is of crucial significance. Arizona's economic troubles continue to create hardship for many of our state's most vulnerable residents. According to the 2010 census, Arizona is now the second poorest state in the nation. Compounding the problem, the state is facing perhaps the most severe budget crunch in its history. Many of the proposed budget cuts will also have a negative impact on nonprofits, already struggling to survive.

According to the AGF study, Arizona nonprofits received 55% of Arizona foundation grants in 2008. However, these grants accounted for 72% of all Arizona foundation giving, indicating Arizona foundations made larger grants to nonprofits in our state. The top two focus areas receiving foundation grants in Arizona are education (23%) and social and human services (20%).

While individual giving in Arizona did decrease from 2006-2008, residents of our state continue to play a vital role in the philanthropic sector. In 2008, individuals in Arizona made an estimated \$3.87 billion in charitable contributions, dwarfing the \$670 million made by Arizona's private and public foundations and corporations.

To read the full report, and to find additional resources on this important topic, visit www.arizonagrantsmakersforum.org.

Arizona Grantmakers Forum is a regional coalition of grantmakers focused on strengthening and increasing charitable giving in Arizona. AGF represents 80 member organizations that give grants to the nonprofit community, and includes public and private foundations, corporations, trusts and donor advised funds, government entities and individuals.
