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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board and staff of The Philanthropy Roundtable, I present you with the 2019 Annual Report. This report highlights a successful year for the Roundtable and showcases the contributions of our work, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors.

The Roundtable continued to support philanthropic excellence and provided expert consultation in program areas such as K-12 education, economic opportunity, veterans, health, and philanthropic services.

In 2019, we hosted 13 events, from the 28th Annual Meeting, our premier event held in Carlsbad, California, to smaller, more intimate events that facilitated valuable and meaningful conversations in locations across the country.

Our Civic Education Program launched in January, and we introduced the Alliance for Charitable Excellence Initiative later in the year. We also produced four excellent issues of Philanthropy magazine.

In February, the Roundtable’s leaders and board began a strategic planning process. The resulting plan was completed and approved by the board of directors in September. Additionally, the Roundtable announced that its long-time president, Adam Meyerson, would be stepping down. After conducting a national search for a successor, the board was pleased to select Elise Westhoff as the Roundtable’s next president and CEO, effective June 1, 2020.

Though we are all living through difficult times, the Roundtable’s mission has never been more important. I look forward to an impactful 2020 and beyond and thank our partners and donors for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Rick Graber
Chairman
Our Vision

The Philanthropy Roundtable’s vision is to build and sustain a vibrant American philanthropic movement that strengthens our free society.

Our Mission

To achieve this vision, The Philanthropy Roundtable pursues a mission to foster excellence in philanthropy, protect philanthropic freedom, and help donors advance liberty, opportunity, and personal responsibility.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Private philanthropy is essential to a free society

A vigorous private sector generates the wealth that makes philanthropy possible

Voluntary private action offers the most effective solutions for many of society’s most pressing challenges

Excellence in philanthropy is measured by results, not good intentions

Upholding donor intent is essential for philanthropic integrity
OUR LEADERSHIP

Rick Graber
Chairman
President and CEO
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation

David Stover
Treasurer
Board Member
John William Pope Foundation

Heather Templeton Dill
Secretary
President
John Templeton Foundation

John Jackson
Board Member
Co-founder and Executive Vice President
Hoplin Jackson Charitable Advisors

Fred Klipsch
Board Member
Chairman
Hoosiers for Quality Education

Tom Lewis
Board Member
Founder, Owner, and CEO
T.W. Lewis Company

John Tyler
Board Member
General Counsel in Legal and Chief Ethics Officer
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Elise Westhoff
Board Member
President and CEO
The Philanthropy Roundtable
Our topic-focused program areas aim to help philanthropists structure their giving for maximum impact, particularly in the areas of civic education, economic opportunity, health, K–12 education, and veterans. In 2019, our program experts organized regional and national events, provided private consultations, and authored leading publications.

NEW PROGRAM

Our Civic Education Program launched in January 2019. It provides philanthropic advice on civic education by introducing donors to best-in-class providers and has built a network of philanthropists committed to expanding public understanding and appreciation of core constitutional principles, such as separation of powers, checks and balances, equal protection under the rule of law, federalism, and the First Amendment.

NEW INITIATIVE

The Alliance for Charitable Excellence exists to protect, defend, and promote philanthropic excellence so that donors are able to improve lives and opportunities and strengthen our communities, states, and country.
The Roundtable hosted 13 regional and national events, along with countless smaller meetings, convenings of working groups, and private gatherings.
INDUSTRY-LEADING PUBLICATIONS

Our publications, including guidebooks, white papers, and our quarterly magazine, Philanthropy, are clear, practical, and donor-focused.
A New Guide


3 Briefings

The Roundtable released important briefings on high-impact civic education projects, a study on the Culture of Freedom initiative and its impact on divorce rates in Jacksonville, and a briefing on philanthropy’s role in mental health’s evolving landscape.
We aim to help philanthropists protect their donor intent and utilize best practices in philanthropy, particularly in the areas of foundation governance and management. In 2019, requests for advice on governance and management came from both foundations and individual donors.

Our experts advised on a wide variety of topics, including:

- Choosing a consultant to re-focus the mission of a donor-advised fund
- Identifying the must-do items when sunsetting a foundation
- Planning for a family foundation when family board members are in the minority
- Reviewing the merits of volunteer versus compensated boards for private foundations
- Putting donor intent safeguards in place for a new foundation
- Engaging the next generation in a family foundation
- Providing guidance on private foundation use of donor-advised funds
Our Economic Opportunity program hosted two lunches on the subject of youth entrepreneurship in September and November. The first was held in Baltimore and featured the work of 3DE by Junior Achievement, a fully integrated high school model. The second lunch was held in Dallas and featured the work of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and their Entrepreneurial Mindset Assessment. We also held a breakfast roundtable during the Annual Meeting, followed by a panel featuring the work of 3DE and Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

The K-12 team played a significant role in advising donors supporting education reform. For example, a New York State-based foundation used our K-12 programming as its source of inspiration as it recruited and supported new charter schools, talent development programs, and new college and career preparation programs. The team was also instrumental in the implementation of education reforms in Puerto Rico.
DISCUSSING MENTAL HEALTH

In 2019, we hosted conference calls on addiction and mental health, a workshop on jail diversion and crisis response, and a mental health dinner at our Annual Meeting that was attended by nearly 50 philanthropists with a range of interests, including children’s mental health, spirituality and mental health, and workplace mental health.

The Independence Project is a donor-funded experiment to test possible improvements of the disability system for veterans—with a goal of encouraging work, strong social networks, and the improved mental and physical health that come with self-reliance and economic independence. In 2019, the project shifted from its initial phase, in which cohorts of veterans receive in-person training through Hire Heroes USA, to its second phase, in which the treatment group receives ongoing counseling. Participants’ progress in the job market is also tracked by the research firm Westat, with the end goal of producing data that demonstrates the superiority of this kind of intervention over disability payments, in terms of producing desirable transition outcomes. The final cohort went through the in-person training in July, bringing the total of study participants to 229.
The Roundtable is committed to public policy advocacy to promote the rights of donors and private foundations to choose how and where to spend their charitable assets. Key issues the Roundtable’s Alliance for Charitable Reform (ACR) worked on in 2019 include donor privacy, the private foundation excise tax, the federal charitable tax deduction, and the regulation of donor-advised funds.

**Protecting Donor Privacy**

In April 2019, ACR joined with partners in California, including Southern California Grantmakers, Philanthropy California, and the League of California Community Foundations, to successfully delay legislation introduced by a California Assemblywoman that would give the Attorney General broad authority to demand information from donor-advised funds, including the names of specific donors and grant recommendations made by advisers.

**Private Foundation Excise Tax**

Simplifying the private foundation excise tax has been an ACR priority for more than a decade. In 2019, Congress passed and the President signed a disaster tax relief bill that repealed the two-tier private foundation excise tax in favor of a simplified 1.39% tax rate, estimated to cost the Federal Treasury $0. While ACR’s preferred rate was 1%, the cost to the government was estimated to be $2 billion over 10 years, and Strategy Committee members determined that simplification was the top priority.

**Federal Charitable Tax Deduction**

ACR continues to advocate for a universal charitable deduction for all taxpayers. ACR hosted more than 75 meetings in 2019 to help build support for bills advancing a universal charitable deduction, including ten hometown meetings that our team organized with
members of the tax writing committees and executives from local charities and grantmaking organizations.

**DAF Regulation**

ACR worked closely with the Treasury Department on regulations related to privacy and donor-advised funds. We convened two separate working groups of sector executives—one focused on influencing technical, career employees and one focused on influencing political appointees. We’re cautiously optimistic forthcoming regulations will protect donors.

Our vice president of publications, Karl Zinsmeister, continues to make speeches and multimedia presentations to a range of audiences, explaining and defending America’s unique tradition of private philanthropy. In 2019, Karl completed nine speeches, newspaper interviews, and radio shows in three cities across Australia, sketching the central role of private giving in American flourishing.
In 2019, expert staff penned timely pieces written for regional and national publications. Highlights include:

“Education Reform Will Weather the Left’s Assault”
Karl Zinsmeister for the Wall Street Journal
Reach: 22M

“Open up the 'iron triangle' that stultifies vets policy”
Shaun Rieley for The Hill
Reach: 18M

“The School-Reform Battle”
Karl Zinsmeister for National Review
Reach: 5M

“Are faith-based colleges and universities in the U.S. under attack?”
Adam Kissel interviewed for Fox News segment
Reach: 22M

“The Assault on Generosity and Voluntary Action”
Karl Zinsmeister for RealClear Politics
Reach: 7M

“What to Do With Empty Churches”
Karl Zinsmeister for the Wall Street Journal
Reach: 13M
The Roundtable served 600 member organizations in 2019, including individual donors, foundations, donor-advised funds, venture philanthropy partnerships, and other grantmaking organizations.
Our members benefit from private, solicitation-free conferences, access to thought leaders and staff experts in each of our program areas, industry-leading publications, and tools to safeguard donor intent. To be eligible for membership, donors must give at least $100,000 annually to charitable causes. Contributors may identify any gift of $500 or more as membership support.

Membership Stats

28 YEARS
The length of our longest Roundtable membership (as of 2019)

74 MEMBERS
State with the most Roundtable members

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<th>Membership Stats</th>
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<th>&gt; 70 members</th>
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Tol oz is the length of our longest Roundtable membership (as of 2019)
Nearly 400 philanthropic decision makers gathered for our premier event in Carlsbad, California on October 23-25 to share ideas, strategies, and best practices, and hear from America’s leading experts in private innovation and forward-thinking policy.

HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural Civic Education Pre-conference
Before the kickoff of the Annual Meeting, 80 donors met to discuss strategies for repairing America’s fractured civic culture.

ACR Breakfast: DAFs and Donor Privacy
Experts offered insider updates on their work to defend philanthropic freedom and donor privacy at the federal and state levels.

Donor Intent Workshop
During this interactive workshop, attendees discussed how to avoid the top 10 mistakes that undermine donor intent.

Cultivating Kid Entrepreneurs
This dynamic session illustrated how to bridge the divide between education and economic opportunity by instilling an entrepreneurial mindset in children.
Big Ideas with Ian Rowe
Charter school leader Ian Rowe argued that educators need to do more to encourage successful life sequencing among students.

Mental Health Meets Criminal Justice
Donors strategized the role of philanthropy in intercepting mental health patients from the prison system to get them the help they desperately need.
SPEAKERS INCLUDED

SCOTT COOK  
Founder  
Intuit

JOE LONSDALE  
Co-founder  
Palantir

NADINE STROSEN  
Immediate Past President  
ACLU

AMITY SHLAES  
Chairman, Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation

ROBERT DOAR  
President  
AEI

JAMES PERRY  
Co-founder and Managing Director  
Madison Dearborn Partners

LARRY KRAMER  
President, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

DAVID Durocher  
Managing Director  
The Other Side Academy

IAN ROWE  
CEO  
Public Prep
ATTENDEES RATED THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE CONFERENCE

9.06 AVERAGE

THIS WAS MY 4TH CONFERENCE, MAYBE MORE. IT’S ALWAYS MY FAVORITE CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR. THE QUALITY AND DEPENDABILITY OF THE CONFERENCE IS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH. THE TOPICS ARE ALWAYS INTERESTING AND GREATLY HELP TO INFORM OUR FOUNDATION’S WORK.
2019 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

GOLD

SILVER

THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION

EDYTH BUSH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

DONORSTRUST

THOMAS S. KENAN III

THE SAMUEL B. AND MARGARET C. MOSHER FOUNDATION

THE RALPH M. PARSONS FOUNDATION

THE SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION

TAUBE PHILANTHROPIES

H.N. and Frances C. BERGER FOUNDATION

ENROTH FAMILY FUND

Greater Milwaukee FOUNDATION greater together

KNIGHT FOUNDATION

SPONSOR OF FIRST AMENDMENT CONTENT

TRIAD FOUNDATION
Each year at the Annual Meeting, The Philanthropy Roundtable presents the William E. Simon Prize for Philanthropic Leadership. The prize honors living philanthropists who have shown exemplary leadership through their own charitable giving, directly or through foundations they have created. It includes a $200,000 award, payable to the charity or charities designated by the winner.

Russell L. Carson, chairman of The Carson Family Charitable Trust, received the prize on October 24. Education ranks highest in Carson’s giving priorities, followed by healthcare, medical research, poverty, culture, and quality of life. The Carsons, driven by a strong passion for strengthening the educational outcomes for struggling low-income students, were early adopters of the charter school movement and supported some of the first to open in New York City. At the same time, Carson and his family began supporting Catholic schools as well. In addition to his extraordinary generosity to improving education, Carson lends philanthropic leadership through various roles at some of New York’s finest institutions.

On behalf of Carson, the prize money from the 2019 Simon Prize was given to Partnership Schools, a network of urban Catholic schools.

Previous winners of the prize include Paul E. Singer, Pitt and Barbara Hyde, Bruce and Suzie Kovner, and David Weekley.

For more information about the prize and a complete list of previous winners, visit PhilanthropyRoundtable.org/Simon.
There is no organization in America more consequential for the future of philanthropy than The Philanthropy Roundtable. The Roundtable convenes the nation’s smartest, most results-oriented philanthropists committed to strengthening freedom, enterprise, and American values through their giving. It also produces a stellar array of thought-leading materials to improve the sector.

— a nonprofit leader
“[The Roundtable is] THE most important and effective organization representing private philanthropy in Washington, which has earned you the admiration of most observers and practitioners of philanthropy in the U.S.”

— a professor and academic authority on philanthropy

“In 2019, The Philanthropy Roundtable helped me find my people. I’m new to philanthropy. Philanthropy Roundtable was my first conference. I found ‘my people.’ Thank you for the incredible content and warm hospitality.

— a Roundtable member from Washington State
OUR STAFF

Elise Westhoff
President and CEO
ewesthoff@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Joanne Florino
Vice President of Philanthropic Services
jflorino@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Katherine Haley
Vice President of Programs
khaley@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Adam Meyerson
President Emeritus
ameyerson@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org
Amanda Rossie  
Chief Operating Officer  
aro@philanthropyroundtable.org

Karl Zinsmeister  
Vice President of Publications  
kzinsmeister@philanthropyroundtable.org

Beca Bruder  
Executive Assistant to the President Emeritus  
bbruder@philanthropyroundtable.org

Pat Burke  
Assistant Director  
K-12 Education Programming  
pburke@philanthropyroundtable.org

Christina Bussie  
Office Manager  
cbussie@philanthropyroundtable.org

Victoria Bell  
Assistant Director  
K-12 Education Relationships  
vbell@philanthropyroundtable.org

Anna Bobb  
Director of Health Programs  
abebb@philanthropyroundtable.org

Alexandra Carlier  
Creative Services Manager  
avcarlier@philanthropyroundtable.org

Tina Cordova  
Director of Events  
tcordova@philanthropyroundtable.org
Alysa Davis
Health Program Coordinator
adavis@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Madeline Fry
Assistant Magazine and Digital Editor
mfry@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Christie Herrera
Executive Director
Alliance for Charitable Excellence
cherrera@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Mary Margaret Holden
Events Assistant
mholden@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Molly Kincaid
Director of Marketing and Communications
mkincaid@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Adam Kissel
Director of Civic and Higher Education Programs
akissel@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Suzi Marchena
Director of Finance and Human Resources
smarchena@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Ben Martin
Development Coordinator
bmartin@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Ashley May
Managing Editor
amay@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org

Tony Mayer
Director of Economic Opportunity Programs
tmayer@PhilanthropyRoundtable.org
2019 EXPENSES

FINANCIALS

Programs: $7,021,954 (85%)
Fundraising: $473,664 (6%)
Management and Administration: $738,538 (9%)

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019
$8,424,670 $8,712,374 $8,892,799 $8,604,614 $8,234,156
STRATEGIC PLAN
In February 2019, the Roundtable’s leaders and board chose to begin a strategic planning process in partnership with American Philanthropic, a national consulting firm, in order to help the organization weigh its options and craft a strategy to guide its future. The resulting strategic plan was completed and approved by The Philanthropy Roundtable’s Board of Directors in September 2019. This strategy will be revisited and refined as needed over the course of the next five years.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION
In July 2019, the Roundtable announced that its long-time president, Adam Meyerson, would be stepping down. The Roundtable board conducted a national search for a successor and selected Elise Westhoff as its next president and CEO, effective June 1, 2020.

Westhoff was most recently executive director of The Snider Foundation, a family foundation in Pennsylvania founded by the late Ed Snider, and has participated actively in The Philanthropy Roundtable. She was a member of the Strategy Committee for the organization’s Alliance for Charitable Reform and joined the organization’s board in 2019.
Thank you to the members and friends of the Roundtable for the opportunity to serve you and for your generous support. We appreciate all you do to strengthen our free society.