Role of Business and Foundation Leaders in Supporting Community Schools

Business and Foundation Leaders are involved in community schools in a variety of ways. They provide financial support and often tend to have high levels of involvement in the governance and organization of a community school or community school initiative. Many leaders endorse community school policy and build relationships that strengthen the community school efforts. The proper level of involvement for a funder depends on the community context and should be decided at the local level together with community school leaders.

There are five general types of community school funders:

1. General Foundations [hot link]
2. Corporate Foundations [hot link]
3. Community Foundations [hot link]
4. Local Foundations [hot link]
5. United Ways [hot link]

General Foundations

Foundations at the national and local levels play an important role in supporting community schools. Typically foundations that fund community schools have an interest in funding education, youth development, and community development projects. They view community schools as a key strategy for accomplishing their missions to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Foundation leaders are committed to the community school strategy and are usually deeply involved, as demonstrated by their participation in meetings, building connections to other funders and leaders, and advocacy.

The Stuart Foundation is an example of a foundation that has made community schools one of their featured initiatives. The Foundation has provided broad-based support for policy and technical assistance at the national level, while demonstrating effective local practice with select sites in the two states in which it concentrates its funding, California and Washington.

Recognizing the centrality of the community school strategy to education reform, the Stuart Foundation’s position is that “the time is right to make community schools a permanent and enduring part of the education landscape.”

Having funded community schools for nearly a decade, the Stuart Foundation has a particular strategy to funding community schools and to strengthen the movement: they fuel exemplary work that replicates and expands effective practices at the local level, support powerful partnerships and technical assistance across sites, and fund independent, nonpartisan research to inform and impact community schools public policy.

Corporate Foundations

Many corporations have foundations that support the community and education. Corporations have a responsibility to the

1 Website: 
http://www.stuartfoundation.org/OurStrategy/EducationSystems/NetworksOfSchoolsAndDistricts/CommunitySchools.aspx

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communities in which they operate and serve. Their employees live in these communities as do many of their clients. Leaders from corporate foundations provide financial support but also often provide mentors, in-kind resources, and other resources, especially at the local level.

The **JP Morgan Chase Foundation** is a corporate foundation that supports community schools. JP Morgan Chase sets a goal to “be the catalyst to meaningful, positive, and sustainable change within our highest need neighborhoods and communities across the globe” through their philanthropy. Their focus on community development and education has led them to fund community schools at the local and national levels.

**Community Foundations**

Community foundations tend to focus their giving at the local or regional levels. They solicit donations and use their general funds to support a set of strategies. Community foundations typically support local community schools and their leaders are typically very involved with the development of and advocacy for the initiative.

Oftentimes community foundation leaders fund a pilot community school initiative along with leaders from across various sectors and encourage policymakers to include the community school strategy in policy and funding mechanisms that allow the initiative to grow.

One example of the many community foundations that strongly support individual community schools and initiatives is **The San Francisco Foundation**. This foundation has made the full-service community schools a key component of their funding approach to support children and communities and have funded community schools throughout the Bay Area. In Spring 2010 the Foundation celebrated their


efforts as Oakland Unified School District’s Board of Education committed to making every school a full-service community school.

The **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** (GCF) is another community foundation that supports community schools. The GCF was created to support community philanthropy. According to their website, GCF “help[s] people make the most of their giving to build a better community.” One of GCF’s “targeted funds” supports Cincinnati Public School’s Community Learning Center Initiative. GCF has made a commitment to raise funds from the community to support this community schools initiative. In addition, the foundation’s CEO is a member of the community schools initiative leadership team.

The **Lincoln Community Foundation** (LCF) helped give birth to the Lincoln Community Learning Centers (CLCs) initiative in 1999 by giving one of its first initiative grants in the amount of $100,000 to the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools.

LCF became a pioneer by investing early on in the concept of Community Learning Centers and funding a community feasibility study which found that Lincoln was overwhelmingly in support of all schools being Community Learning Centers. LCF underwrote the original four pilot sites which have grown to the current total of 25. This investment has leveraged over $8 million in resources from blended funding streams. The ongoing challenge with the CLC initiative is to develop a sustainable infrastructure that leverages current federal, state and local grants as they institutionalize the model. Additional support from the LCF has been used as bridge funding while we work to institutionalize the CLC leadership infrastructure.

http://www.greatercincinnatifdn.org/page10004188.cfm

http://www.greatercincinnatifdn.org/page10004302.cfm

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that is essential to the long-term success of Community Learning Centers.

**Local Private Foundations**

Local private foundations are very similar to community foundations in that they focus on issues within a specific geographical area. However, local foundations don’t solicit donations as they are typically supported by an endowment.

In Chicago the Polk Bros. Foundation funded a pilot of community schools in the early 1990s that have led to the largest community school initiative in the country, approximately 154 community schools. The Polk Bros. Foundation continues to support local community schools as well as the Federation for Community Schools, a group that advocates for community schools across the state of Illinois.

**United Ways**

Large CBOs such as the United Way often play a major role in the development and implementation of a community school initiative. They provide essential financial, organizational, and technical capacity and often take the lead role in governing the initiative. Leaders from these CBOs organize partnerships with other non-profits and leverage funding streams from grants, philanthropy, and partner organizations.

The United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley provides financial, organizational, and leadership support to the initiative that spans three school districts and 12 schools.

The **United Way of the Greater New Orleans Area** leads and coordinates the New Orleans Kids Partnership (NOKP), a 30+ nonprofit member collaborative that focuses the integration and coordination of efforts at community school sites, as well as issues and specific events related to youth development. The United Way acts as neutral convener (not competing with direct service providers or among schools) to both manage the collaborative and the necessary funds that enable the community school effort to thrive and expand.

NOKP raises and leverages money from national philanthropic groups, small family foundations, corporate philanthropies and public funding pools (DOJ, DOE) thus allowing smaller nonprofit groups and independent charter schools to focus on the children first, rather than fundraising.

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5 http://www.unitedwayglv.org/index.php?pr=COMPASS_overview
Coalition Partners

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ COMMUNITY BUILDING

Center for Community Change
Development Training Institute
Harley Children’s Zone
National Congress for Community Economic Development
National Council of La Raza
National Neighborhood Coalition
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Urban League
Police Executive Research Forum
The Harvard Institute

EDUCATION

American Association for Higher Education
American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American School Counselor Association
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania
Council of Chief State School Officers
Council of the Great City Schools
Developmental Studies Center
Leaning First Alliance
National Association for Bilingual Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Education
National Education Association
National Parent Teachers Association
National School Board Association
Pacific Oaks College, CA

FAMILY SUPPORT / HUMAN SERVICES

Alliance For Children and Families
American Public Human Services Association
CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning), UI of Chicago
Child Welfare League of America
Family Support America
National Center for Family Literacy
The Educational Alliance
United Way Worldwide

GOVERNMENT

Local and State Governments

National League of Cities
National Association of Counties
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Governors Association
The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Federal Government

Learn and Serve America
21st Century Community Learning Center Program
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Mental Health Association
Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
UC/LA Center for Mental Health in Schools
Center for Health and Health Care in Schools, George Washington University

LOCAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL NETWORKS

Achievement Plus Community Learning Centers, St. Paul, MN
Alliance for Families and Children, Hennepin County, MN (Alignment
Nashville, TN
Balmer Connections, MD
Bates College/Lewiston Public Schools, ME
Binghamton Public Schools, AL
Boston Public Schools, MA
Boston Public Schools, MA
Bridges to the Future, United Way of Genesee County - Flint, MI
Bridges to Success, United Way of Central Indiana - Indianapolis, IN
Bridges to Success, United Way of Greater Greensboro - Greensboro, NC
Bridges to Success, United Way of Greater High Point - High Point, NC
Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority, GA
Chelsea Community Schools, MA
Chicago Coalition for Community Schools, IL
Chicago Public Schools - The Campaign to Expand Community Schools in Chicago
Community College of Aurora/Aurora Public Schools, CO
Community Schools, School Connection, NY
Community Schools Rhode Island, RI
Detroit Place Adult and Family Learning Center
Hartford Community Schools, Hartford Public School District, CT
Jacksonville Partnership for Children, FL
Kiln CAN, Mesa, AZ
Lincoln Community Learning Centers Initiative, NE
Local Investment Commission (LINC), Kansas City, MO
Missippi Beacon Project, MN
Montgomery County Public Schools - Linkages to Learning
New Paradigm Partners, Turtle Lake, WI
New Vision for Public Schools, NY
Project Success II
Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth, NY
School/unlimited Services, Inc., Kansas City, KS
SCOPE, (School and Community Organized to Provide Excellence), Central Falls, RI
St. Louis Park Schools, MN
St. Louis Public Schools, Office of Community Education, MO
Schools United Neighborhoods (SUN), Portland, OR
University of Alabama-Birmingham/Birmingham Public Schools, AL
University of Dayton/Boston Public Schools, OH
University of Denver/Boulder Public Schools, CO
University of Kentucky/Leomington Public Schools, KY
University of New Mexico/United South Broadway/Albuquerque Public Schools, NM
University of Rhode Island/Prostestant Public School, RI
West Philadelphia Improvement Corp (WPIC)

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL NETWORKS

Beacon School Youth Development Institute at the Fund for the City of New York
Children’s Aid Society
Communities in Schools
National Community Education Association
Schools of the 21st Century, Yale University

PHILANTHROPY

Amie E. Casey Foundation
Atlantic Philanthropies
Carnegie Corporation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
KnowledgeWorks Foundation
Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Rose Community Foundation
Sprint Foundation
The After School Corporation
The Wallace Foundation
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

POLICY, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY

After School and Community Education Resource Network
American Youth Policy Forum
Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University
Children’s Defense Fund
Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth
Coalition for Our Children’s Schools
Education Development Center
Family Friendly Schools, VA
Foundations, Inc.
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Social and Economic Policy, New York University
National Center for Schools and Communities, Fordham University
Joy Duk坐下, Independent Researcher
National Child Labor Committee
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education National
Summer Learning Association
National Youth Employment Coalition
Parents United for Child Care, Boston, MA
Public Education Network
RMC Research
The Finance Project
The Rural School and Community Trust

SCHOOL FACILITIES PLANNING

Concordia, LLC
Council of Education Facilities Planners International
National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities
New Schools / Better Neighborhoods
Smart Growth America
21st Century School Fund

STATE ENTITIES

California Center for Community-School Partnerships/Healthy Start
Field Office
California Department of Education
Child and Family Policy Center
Community Schools, RI
Colorado Foundation for Families and Children
Education Leadership Beyond Excellence Foundation, CA
Illinois Community School Partnership / Voices for Illinois Children
New Jersey School-Based Youth Service/Department of Human Services
Office of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, Frankfort, KY
Ohio Department of Education
State Education and Environment Roundtable
Tennessee Consortium for Full Service Schools
Washington State Readiness To Learn Initiative

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Academy for Educational Development
AED Center for Youth Development and Policy Research
America’s Promise
Association of New York State Youth Bureaus
Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
California School-Based Partnership/Center for Collaborative Solutions
Camp Fire USA
Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund
The Forum for Youth Investment
National Collaboration for Youth
National Institute On Our-Of-School Time
National School Age Care Alliance
Partnership for After-school Education
The Forum for Youth Investment
YMCA of the USA

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