



## **2006 Year End Report Highlights of Key Activities**

### **Overview**

This past year, SAFSF pursued two primary goals:

- Work to establish a secure base of operations at our new fiscal sponsor 'home' at Community Partners, and
- Continue to evolve and grow as an organization in promoting more sustainable agriculture and a healthier, vibrant food system both here in the U.S. and globally to an increasingly larger and more diverse philanthropic audience.

We have, in fact, made significant gains towards meeting each of these goals. We have also learned a considerable amount along the way about our processes and assumptions, expectations and values, and our potential for impact. Overall, we are proud of our progress and accomplishments in what has been a busy, sometimes challenging, and productive year.

SAFSF's leadership has just concluded a modified strategic planning process. The plan, Moving Forward, was set on a fairly ambitious timetable beginning in February and concluded in October 2006. The outcome of this process is a final set of organizational protocols, values, formal membership guidelines and dues which will be available online at [www.safsf.org](http://www.safsf.org) in late January 2007.

We are grateful that we continue to receive positive input about our network, our activities and our collaborations, as well as requests for ongoing education about 'our' issues and how they intersect with other issues. We look forward to the New Year as we work to elevate our effectiveness and capitalize on the momentum we have enjoyed over the last few years.

### **SAFSF Steering Committee**

We are fortunate to have a strong and active Steering Committee. Their leadership guides our work; their energy and expertise has enabled us to mature as an organization. We say 'thank you' and recognize the many contributions of outgoing Steering Committee members Gretchen Bonfert (McKnight Foundation) and Marty Teitel (Cedar Tree Foundation) who completed their terms at the end of 2006. In addition, a very special thank you goes to Kolu Zigbi (Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation) as she ends her tenure as SAFSF's co-chair at year's end. Kolu provided much needed energy, insight, and drive as she helped to guide SAFSF through our many transitions of the last two years. She brings considerable capacity, integrity and depth to our work and our network is much stronger for her leadership. We are pleased she will continue to serve on the Steering Committee.

We are grateful to Amy Solomon (Bullitt Foundation) who will continue her service to our network as SAFSF's Chair for 2007.

### **2007 Steering Committee Members**

Oran Hesterman (W.K. Kellogg Foundation)  
Bruce Hirsch (Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation)  
Bruce Karmazin (The Lumpkin Family Foundation)  
Margaret O'Dell (Joyce Foundation)  
Ted Quaday (Farm Aid)  
Amy Solomon (Bullitt Foundation), Chair,  
Kolu Zigbi (Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation)

### **2006 Supporting Funders**

Our work simply could not exist without the generosity of both new and ongoing supporting funders. Thank you for helping to raise over \$214,000! 2006 members include:

Aqua Fund	The Joyce Foundation
The JoAnne and Michael Bander Family Fund	W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	The Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation
The Bullitt Foundation	The Lumpkin Family Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation	The McKnight Foundation
Columbia Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife
Cornerstone Foundation	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
Farm Aid	Organic Farming Research Foundation
The Flintridge Foundation	Oxfam America
The George Gund Foundation	Sandy River Charitable Foundation
Clarence Heller Charitable Trust	Lawson Valentine Foundation
	U.S.D.A. – Risk Management Agency
	The William Zimmerman Foundation

### **2006 Programming**

SAFSF was involved in a wide range of activities over the course of the last year. We were pleased so many of you were able to participate in some of our events. We hope to see you in 2007 and look forward to welcoming new colleagues to our events. As always, we encourage you to provide us with your feedback about the quality and range of our programming, services, accessibility and applicability for funders. The year in review:

- Conference call
  - The Future of Federal Farm Programs: Hurry Up and Wait?(...But There's More Cookin' Than You May Realize)
- Conference call co-hosted (with National Rural Funders Collaborative)
  - Exploring the Role of Farm Labor in Promoting Community Health and Agricultural Sustainability
- Funders briefing in Washington, DC - co-sponsored (with HEFN, EGA, CGBD) -
  - Elements of a Sustainable Future: Green Chemistry 101 for Funders
- Conference call co-hosted (with National Rural Funders Collaborative)
  - Creating Strong Rural Communities (part of a 4-part series on farmworker/rural issues)
- Site visit – Arizona, as part of Grantmakers In Health's (GIH) annual Conference. Visit highlighted connections between agriculture/food system connections and nutrition and health within Native American communities.

- Local, seasonal dinner – SAFSF coordinated the 4<sup>th</sup> annual regional food dinner as part of The Funders’ Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN) annual conference in Chicago
- Workshops: ‘Healthy Food, Healthy People’ workshop at GIH, TFN, and WKKF Food and Society conferences
- Funder-only reception at WKKF’s FAS Conference
- Ag-Health Funder Briefing – SAFSF and GIH co-hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> networking briefing bringing together health and sustainable ag/food systems funders.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SAFSF Forum in Maine, a 4-day program including 2 day-long site visits, a funder-NGO reception with Maine’s First Lady and Secretary of Agriculture. This year’s Forum also included a complete children’s’ program.
- National funder affinity leader retreat – SAFSF served on planning committee and attended this retreat designed to allow for stronger relationships, networks, and understanding of the work being done.
- Workshop on Green Chemistry - Co-hosted with HEFN at EGA’s Annual Retreat
- Midwest funders briefing in Minneapolis co-sponsored by SAFSF, HEFN and EGA)
  - Green Chemistry and Sustainability Criteria for the Bio-Based Economy
  - The Opportunity and Jeopardy of Biofuels

### **Outreach:**

SAFSF is a relatively small funder network with limited resources. As such, we need to think and act strategically while we retain flexibility. Coming out of our Moving Forward process, one of our priorities for the coming year will be to strengthen and deepen our relationships with our members. In December 2006, SAFSF instituted a new quarterly teleconference call series, Kitchen Conversations, for members-only. This series is a ‘work-in-progress’ and will be tailored, we hope, to better meet members’ needs. Each call will be led by a funder volunteer (with staff support) and will not include outside speakers. We hope this more open format will engender greater discussion and sharing around topics of particular interest.

We are also taking time to evaluate our collaborative work with philanthropic partners working in other areas so that we can maximize our contributions and gains from these partnerships. In 2006, we were delighted to have the chance to work The Funders’ Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN), Health and Environment Funders’ Network (HEFN), the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA), and the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD) partners with whom we’ve worked in the past. 2006 also allowed us to work with new colleagues at Grantmakers In Health and the National Rural Funders Collaborative. And we already have several collaborative adventures on the books for 2007!

The work we do around sourcing local/regional food for our own - and others’ - events has had an impact both in terms of funder education as well as in the dollar amounts contributed to the local economy where events are held. We were pleased to get this message from one funder who attended our November Midwest Funder briefing:

“After attending the green chemistry/biofuels meeting we’ve made a decision that we’d like to make our board meetings more sustainable.... Looking for help working with local hotels, restaurants and caterers that incorporate sustainable practices in their operations and food service, locally produced, organic etc.”

## **Looking Ahead – 2007 and Beyond**

As always, our goal is to continue to provide high-quality educational and networking opportunities for funders. A glimpse of what is coming up in 2007:

- January 23, 2007:
  - Conference Call: Farm Bill 2007 Update
- February 20-21, 2007
  - Farm Bill Workshop at EGA's Federal Policy Briefing
  - Ag-Trade Dinner with FNTG at EGA's Federal Policy Briefing
  - Conference call: Food, farming and faith (date TBA)
- March 2007
  - Conference Call: Policy Call series (focus TBA)
  - The Funders Network on Smart Growth & Livable Communities Annual Conference - SAFSF lead on Local/Regional foods dinner
- April 2007
  - 'Kitchen Conversations' – Quarterly Member call (date TBA)
  - Conference Call: Policy Call series (focus TBA)
  - W. K. Kellogg Food and Society Conference
    - Funders only reception
  - Council on Foundation's Annual Conference
    - Breakout session on sustainable agriculture and food systems
    - 'Green Events' reception with EGA and Sustainability Funders
- May 2007
  - Conference Call: Policy call series (focus TBA)
- June 25-28, 2007
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SAFSF Forum in Des Moines, Iowa
- July 2007
  - 'Kitchen Conversations' – Quarterly Member call (date TBA)