



## 2007 Year End Report Highlights of Key Activities

### Year end musings... by your grateful coordinator

Over the last few years I have come to both dread and love the last couple weeks of December. These feelings had nothing to do with any of the holidays but rather due to the fact that the end of December means - drum roll please - the year end report. Why the dread? Ok, let's be honest: how many of these reports do any of us want or need to read? Is it another ill-fated use of natural resources, human resources and time - both on the writing and reading ends? Does anyone really care what we did? Or who did it? Or why? Is it simply a way to take care of all my grant reports in one fell swoop? (Don't dig too deep on that last one...)

But then, I start. Slowly at first. I tell myself: 'just drag out all the data and see if it adds up to anything.' One thing leads to another; I'm reminded of a call, an event and say: "Did we really do that *this* year???" The images, tastes, and smells (yes, I'm talking about feedlots here for those of you who were in Iowa) start flooding in. Voices (yes, I do hear voices...I work in my garage, remember?) and faces come into view and then I get into the groove. The truth is, I actually like writing this report. Each year, it forces me to stop, take a minute or a few hours - and reflect on the last 12 months. In an otherwise bustling time of year I get to stop and relish the many interactions, laughs, good meals, difficult conversations, and poignant reminders of our work - and so many of you - the wonderful members of this ever-expanding network.

While I was working to finish the data-part of this report, I took a break and thumbed through an old Sunday New York Times (you know, the sections you put aside for when you have time.) That one happened to be from early January - and I opened up the front section to a simple, white page. It was blank page save the words: 'Imagine Peace', and was signed 'Love, yoko ono.'

It made me stop in my tracks. And it was exhilarating all at the time same. And I do imagine peace - as I think so, so many of us do. Especially now. And it made me think about all the other things I can imagine - and hope for - and work towards. Like a healthy future, and having delicious, fresh food available to all who hunger. Like the joy of folks digging up carrots they grew and watching them chomp them down - dirt and all. Like breaking bread with those who grow and harvest our food. Like not having to have a degree in advanced chemistry to understand the ingredients in my food.

And now, I realize, some of what we imagined a year ago - plans for the network - for our work - we've actually accomplished! Some of those crazy ideas blossomed - and bore fruit. For a moment I am happy and inspired by what we have been able to accomplish together.

So as you step into this new year - sadly a time of chaos and mayhem all over the world politically, economically, environmentally, health-wise and seemingly every-other wise - remember: it's ok to imagine. Actually, it's vital that you and I and all of us imagine. Let those thoughts RUN WILD!!! Try and lose the 'im' from before 'possible.' Crazy? Maybe. Sane - more likely. Do-able? Definitely!

So now I invite you to join me in celebrating a year well lived - 2007 in review.

## Overview

SAFSF Staff and Steering Committee have been working to bring new voices into our dialogue and to expand our network. We now have 34 formal members (but well over 200 very important ‘friends’!) - individuals and organizations that span the range - from community, private, corporate, and operating foundations, to individual philanthropists, as well as public sector agencies. The learning among members and the ability to leverage funding has grown considerably over the last few years. Our aim is to provide our members and friends network with information and on-going opportunities that will enrich our collective knowledge base, and challenge us to be expansive and ever-creative in our thinking and work.

## SAFSF Steering Committee

This past year brought many new faces and talents to the SAFSF Steering Committee. But before welcoming our newest members, we stop to give deeply heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who served in a leadership capacity for the network for many years: *Oran Hesterman*, W.K. Kellogg Foundation (now with Fair Food Foundation); *Margaret O’Dell*, Joyce Foundation; *Ted Quaday*, Farm Aid; and *Kolu Zigbi*, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

We are delighted to welcome to the Steering Committee new members *Becca Golden*, Ben & Jerry’s Foundation; *Greg Horner*, Cedar Tree Foundation; *Ron Kroese*, McKnight Foundation; and *Ricardo Salvador*, W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

A special thanks to *Amy Solomon*, Bullitt Foundation for her willingness, grand ability and good humor as she flew ‘solo’ as SAFSF’s chair in 2007. The leadership reins have been passed along to 2008 Co-Chairs, *Bruce Hirsch*, Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation and *Bruce Karmazin*, Lumpkin Family Foundation.

## 2008 Steering Committee Members

*Bruce Hirsch* (Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation)  
*Bruce Karmazin* (The Lumpkin Family Foundation)  
*Becca Golden* (Ben & Jerry’s Foundation)  
*Greg Horner* (Cedar Tree Foundation)

*Ron Kroese* (McKnight Foundation)  
*Ricardo Salvador* (W. K. Kellogg Foundation)  
*Amy Solomon* (Bullitt Foundation)

*If you are currently a SAFSF member and would be interested in serving on the leadership team, please contact our office for more information.*

## 2007 Members

Our work simply would not exist without you, our members. Eleven new members formally joined SAFSF in 2007 – see list of current members below with new members identified in italics. We find our network in a unique position among funder networks in that our members span from individual donor to family, public, and corporate foundations, faith-based organizations to government agencies.

A formal SAFSF membership and dues structure was established as of January 1, 2007. Your helpful feedback about the process, forms, etc. over the course of the year led us to revise and simplify the process for 2008 membership. ***Anyone interested in SAFSF membership should contact Virginia Clarke at [vclarke@safsf.org](mailto:vclarke@safsf.org).*** ***As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback.***

### 2007 SAFSF Members (\* new members)

*\*Americana Foundation*  
Aqua Fund  
Michael and JoAnne Bander Family Fund  
Ben & Jerry’s Foundation  
The Bullitt Foundation  
Cedar Tree Foundation  
Center for Ecoliteracy  
*\*Claneil Foundation*  
Columbia Foundation  
*\*Compton Foundation, Inc.*  
Farm Aid  
Flintridge Foundation  
*\*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*  
George Gund Foundation  
Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation  
Joyce Foundation  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
*\*Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation*

*\* Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture*  
Lumpkin Family Foundation  
McKnight Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Oxfam America  
William Penn Foundation  
*\* Presbyterian Hunger Program*  
Sandy River Charitable Foundation  
*\* Solidago Foundation*  
*\* Kat Taylor (individual)*  
True North Foundation  
USDA- Risk Management Agency  
Lawson Valentine Foundation  
*\* Vancouver Foundation*  
*\* Wallace Center for Sustainable Agriculture*  
William Zimmerman Foundation

## Accomplishments

SAFSF's goal is to facilitate an open, creative and participatory network for funders. We hope our events and activities over the last year have moved us ever closer to our goals of expanding our outreach to a wider funding community and providing on-going, high-quality educational and networking opportunities for funders. **Together** we have done a lot:

- Funder call: *Overview of 2007 Farm Bill* (January 2007)
- Workshop: *Farm Bill briefing* held at EGA's Federal Policy Briefing (Feb 2007)
- Dinner and Discussion: *Intersecting Interests in Ag policy and Trade*, co-sponsored with FNTG (Feb 2007)
- 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Eat Here!' local foods dinner, at Funders' Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities annual conference (March 2007)
- SAFSF MEMBER-only 'Kitchen Conversation' conference call
  - *Scaling up local food systems initiatives*
- Funder call: *Food, Faith and Farms: The Religious Community and the Farm Bill of 2007*, co-hosted with Interfaith Funders (April 2007)
- Funder call: *Farm Bill Proposals to Curb Corporate Concentration* (April 2007)
- Reception: Funder-only reception at WKKF's FAS Conference (April 2007)
- Workshop: *Transformation by Nurturing Collaboration: How Foundations and NGOs are Changing Our Food System*, a first at Council on Foundations conference (May 2007)
- Workshop/reception: 'Green Beyond Grants', at Council on Foundations conference co-hosted with Funders' Workgroup on Sustainable Consumption and Production (May 2007)
- Publication: 'Green Beyond Grants', a publication aimed at assisting funders operationalize sustainability efforts (co-produced with EGA and Funders' Workgroup on Sustainable Consumption and Production) (online at [www.safsf.org](http://www.safsf.org))
- SAFSF's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Forum in Des Moines, Iowa
  - Iowa was a big draw and brought in our largest number of Forum attendees – over 60. Designed to expose some of the perhaps harsher realities of Midwest agriculture, the 2007 Forum included visits to an ethanol production facility and a cattle feedlot. Those attending voiced their appreciation of having their 'comfort zone and learning limits' pushed and have encouraged us to provide similar kinds of opportunities at our future events.
  - Our 2007 Forum included workshops submissions by members. Based on the success in Iowa, we will be repeating this process for future Forums enabling us to bring in new issues/angles to our work and highlight the expertise of you, our network.
- *King Corn*, a public film screening in Santa Barbara
- SAFSF staff, member of Glynwood Center's Harvest Award Selection Committee
- SAFSF assisted in coordinating the environment and natural resources 'track' at the Council of Foundation's rural funders meeting in Montana, August 2007.
- SAFSF MEMBER-only 'Kitchen Conversation' conference call
  - Program and Mission related investments (August 2007)
- 2008 SAFSF Forum Planning Committee Meeting (August 2007)
- Funder Institute : *Green Beyond Grants*, at EGA Retreat, co-hosted with Funders' Workgroup on Sustainable Consumption and Production (September 2007)
- SAFSF staff, member of Santa Barbara School District's Wellness Committee
- *King Corn*, a public film screening in Santa Barbara (November 2007)

**Upcoming 2008 events:**

**MEMBERS ONLY:**

- SAFSF Member directory will be distributed to members Spring 2008
- *In the Kitchen* Conversations – our quarterly, member-only conversations will begin later in January. An announcement with details to be sent via the member-only listserv.

**2008 Conference Calls – stay tuned for specifics – calls for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2008:**

- *Friday, March 7 at 10 a.m. Pacific/ 12 noon Central/ 1 p.m. Eastern*
  - Ag/Food Systems Funder Tracking – Survey updateJoin SAFSF and Headwaters Group to hear about overall trends in sustainable ag/food systems funding. Learn who has joined in the fun – where and what they are funding.
- Farm Bill 2007? 2008? Or when? – an update (Date: TBD)
- Synthetic Biology (a form of nanobiotechnology) (Date: TBD)

**DON'T FORGET –**

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FORUM – IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

*Put these dates on your calendar now!*

*See our enclosed postcard featuring Oregon's state fruit – the pear!*

**June 23-26, 2008!**

***RIPE: Real Interdependence, Partnership and Equity  
Setting the Table for Farms, Food and People***

The four days will include special keynotes, member sponsored workshops, local foods and much more! A day-long site visit will have us traveling up the Columbia River Gorge to the greater Hood River Valley region with stops at an apple/pear/cherry orchard, international fruit packing/distribution plant, and a intertribal fish processing facility. A second day-long site visit will take us to Woodburn in the Willamette Valley for in-depth conversations and visits with community organizations working on farmworker labor, housing and health issues. Back in Portland enjoy special mobile workshops including *Beervana; Sustainable Portland;* and *Sprawl, Malls and Community Halls.*

**A preliminary program and registration will be available online in March.**

**Early 2008 collaborations coming up:**

February 27: a workshop at Grantmakers in Health annual conference in Los Angeles

*Power in Partnerships to Tackle Disparities: Diversity is our Asset and Equity our Common Ground*, co-sponsored with colleagues from Health and Environment Funders' Network and the Funders' Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities. See [www.gjh.org](http://www.gjh.org) for more details.

April 1: *Eat Here!* A local foods dinner celebrating the Rocky Mountains

2008 marks our 6<sup>th</sup> *Eat Here!* dinner as part of The Funders' Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities annual conference. See [www.fundersnetwork.org](http://www.fundersnetwork.org) for more details.

**Of Some Note:**

At long last we have a workable database! We are still in launch/training mode – (likely to be in learning mode for awhile yet!) but are excited about the efficiencies and possibilities our online Salesforce tool represents. Our hope is that by being able to 'slice and dice' the data - types of funders, region, areas of interest, etc. - we will be better able to serve you. As with all such tools, our ability to put out information depends on what information we take/get in. That's where your help will be important! Someone from SAFSF will be contacting you in the next couple of months to make sure your information is current and reflects your involvement with SAFSF.