



2011 YEAR END REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Our growing season in Vermont is fleeting but abundant, so it's essential that we cherish the sunshine and the warmth while it's here, and put food by for the cold months. During this dark time of dormancy, while I'm cooking dried beans and giving jars of pickled dilly beans to friends, I like to look back on the year and give thanks for the abundance and the preserved harvest that sustains us.

SAFSF is one of those things that helps sustain us. From the rich abundance of the June 2010 Forum, we harvested a new network of health and food system funders – Creating Common Ground – which we nurtured and helped to grow in 2011. We will continue to nurture that network going forward. We also took advantage of an opportunity presented by Prince Charles to nurture a network of International Food System Funders.

This year's June Forum, in Minneapolis, was as large and fruitful as ever. It generated great interest and some controversy with regard to engaging the corporate sector in our conversation. We plan to continue that conversation even as we seek to deepen our understanding and commitment to social justice issues in the food system at the 2012 Forum.

On our Steering Committee, we've said "good-bye" but not "farewell," to our two long-time SC members, Bruce Hirsch and Bruce Karmazin, though they both promise to remain active network members. We also said a huge "thank you" to Geraldine Wang, who stepped down from her role as co-chair, but continues to serve on the SC. In the meantime, we welcomed two new Steering Committee members in July, Tim Crosby and Scott Cullen. And we are very excited to welcome Andrew Kang-Bartlett and Mailee Walker, coming on board the SC for 2012.

While we have experienced some growing pains this year, we've learned from our challenges and are looking forward to 2012 with its anticipated organizational changes and growth. We invite you to participate in all we have to offer: more support of regional networks, an exciting line up of funders' calls, our study groups, and a fabulous Forum in Santa Barbara.

Wishing you a season of light and sustenance,
Becca Golden
Ben & Jerry's Foundation

SAFSF MOVED!

It's official: we no longer operate out of a garage! Please update your records and stop by for a visit next time you are in town.

NEW ADDRESS: 16 W Mission St., Suite R; Santa Barbara, CA 93101



The old office – AKA Virginia's garage



The new office!

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I prepared to draft this year's report, I figured it would be wise to see what I'd written last year given that I am now part of the over-50 crowd and, according to my 13-year old, prone to repeating myself. Knowing the 13-year old is always 'right', I reread the 2010 year end report and had a good laugh as I read: *'I encourage us all to...take a deep breath...for all that lays before us. I sense we are going to need that extra breath moving forward!'* Had I been wise, I would have taken my own 'advice' and gulped some more air before heading into 2011. Little did I know then that the new year would bring greatly expanded operations (testing our mettle and straining our finances); a move out of the garage and meeting Prince Charles in the same month; nearly double the number of Forum attendees; and 15 new members.

This year has forced me to wildly expand my thinking about what is possible as new opportunities for collaboration and fun presented themselves. I am humbled by what we have accomplished together over the last year. I am in awe of your determination and drive. And I may borrow my father's oxygen tank for what lays ahead in 2012. Deep breath. Plunge In. Surface and swim fast.

In gratitude,
Virginia

SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS

For more information concerning any of these projects, please contact Virginia at vclarke@safsf.org.

Creating Common Ground

Creating Common Ground is a collaborative project of SAFSF, Grantmakers In Health (GIH) and the Convergence Partnership and is aimed at networking funders working at the food-ag-health nexus. Since the project's inception, we have held three meetings (Dec 2010, March 2011 and June 2011). Participating funders have affirmed the strategic value of meetings with like-minded peers and have appreciated the opportunity to work on the development of common agendas focusing on systems change, while learning about relevant agendas of other funders and funder networks. These meetings have led to important funder to funder introductions, much greater exchange of information, and the opportunity to explore shared policy and advocacy agendas. The meetings have also provided an opportunity to learn more about best practices, current investments, existing gaps, and ways to collaboratively leverage work to greater impact. A more detailed framework for future collaboration will be rolled out in early 2012. It will include details about future calls, workshops to be held in conjunction with GIH's Annual Meeting in March 2012, and with the SAFSF June Forum, and an October 2012 meeting in San Francisco to coincide with the American Public Health Association's annual meeting. This project is open to any and all funders working in or interested in this issue nexus.

International Funders' Network

In April, SAFSF was asked to help coordinate a meeting of foundation representatives to meet with HRH The Prince of Wales in conjunction with The Future of Food conference held May 4th in Washington, DC. At the May meeting, there was strong support to launch a foundations' initiative that would work to create an international network of philanthropic organizations targeting support for efforts to strengthen local sustainable food systems across the globe. SAFSF was nominated to lead the coordination of these efforts and staff has been working with an ad-hoc planning committee to move this work forward. Planning meetings in September in San Francisco were held to help frame the network and future activities, which we believe, must be informed by a broad variety of international institutions and individuals. At present, we are exploring the possibility of a first international meeting tentatively slated for Summer 2012.

Regional Funder Gatherings

SAFSF was honored to work with colleagues in Minnesota and Virginia to co-host regional funder meetings. The March 2011 Minnesota meeting brought together over twenty-five funders and helped to launch a whole series of meetings and some exciting collaborative work in the state. The November meeting in Virginia also brought together some twenty-five funders from across the state and helped to create linkages among funders who previously had not met.

Looking to create networks in your state/region? Let us know how we might be able to assist you.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING FOR 2012

SAFSF'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY FORUM

Bounty For All?

The challenge of creating an equitable food system

Santa Barbara, California

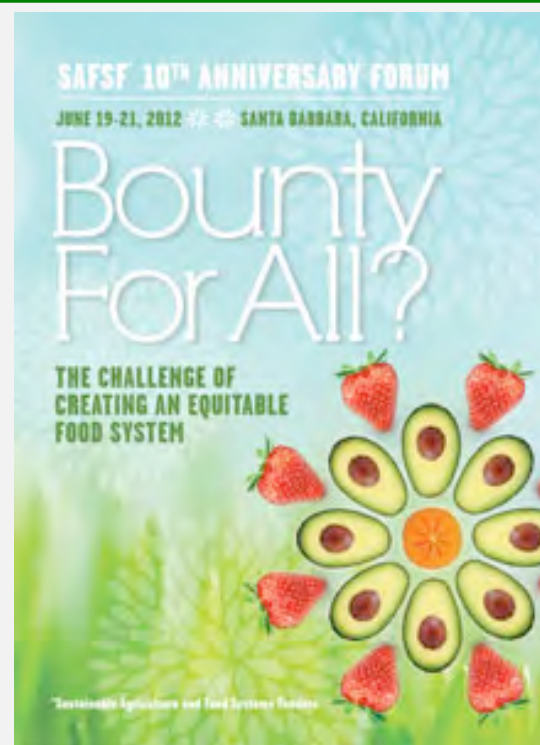
June 19-21, 2012

Land of glitz and glamour, epicenter of progress and innovation, fruit and vegetable bowl of the nation—such is the image that California portrays to the world. But beneath this veneer lies a different California. Like the geologic fault lines that regularly open up across the state, growing divides in California's food system expose the ecological, social, and economic disparities.

SAFSF invites you to join us for our 10th Anniversary Forum in Santa Barbara, California on June 19-21, 2012 where we will reflect upon our progress over the last decade and look to future challenges and opportunities. Using the California food system as a microcosm of our global food system, Forum participants will explore inequities around issues of water, environmental health, labor, and others.

Registration opens March 2012: www.safsf.org

Watch the plenary sessions from past forums online: vimeo.com/safsf



JANUARY 26: NETWORKING RECEPTION IN DC

SAFSF is co-hosting a funder-only reception at the U.S. Botanic Garden in conjunction with our annual Steering Committee meeting. For details contact Virginia at vclarke@safsf.org

MARCH 27: EAT HERE! IN SEATTLE

SAFSF and The Funders' Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN) are teaming up for our 10th Eat Here! local food dinner. TFN's conference program is expanding with several ag/food offerings! Check out the details at:

www.fundersnetwork.org/events/annual-conference-details

MARCH: CREATING COMMON GROUND – BALTIMORE

SAFSF and Grantmakers in Health will host our fourth gathering in the *Creating Common Ground* series in conjunction with GIH's annual conference. Details regarding exact time and location or event will be announced in early 2012.

GIH Annual Conference— March 7-9, in Baltimore

www.gih.org

STUDY GROUPS

We now have 5 active and growing study groups! Topics include: finance and investment; urban ag; economic development; policy; and water. Study groups now meet monthly via conference call, in-person at the June Forum, and share resources via an online Ning platform. For more information contact bridget@safsf.org

FUNDER CALLS

We will have a bounty of offerings for you in 2012:

- Jan 20, 10am PST / 1pm EST – How can funders best support communications? RSVP: info@safsf.org
- February – Farm Bill Visualization Tool; and Food Funding Trends in the UK, EU, and US
- March/April – Series on the good food movement in higher education
- May – Seniors, Hunger, and Food access; and Fracking, Agriculture, and Water
- Monthly Study Group calls – one for each of the 5 study groups!
- Joint calls as part of the *Creating Common Ground* project
- Quarterly, member-only *In The Kitchen* calls

Watch for dates and details in the listserv and on our website www.safsf.org.

EVALUATING OUR IMPACT

This fall we conducted our second biennial member and active participant survey. We greatly appreciate all of you who took the time to provide honest and meaningful feedback. We'll be sharing the results in early 2012.

LISTSERV

If you would like to be added to our listserv, please contact Bridget (bridget@safsf.org)

NEW MEMBERS IN 2011

SAFSF is a network of 69 members and growing, with 15 new members since January 2011. Please help us welcome:

- 11th Hour Project
- Bradshaw-Knight Foundation
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Driscoll's
- Island Foundation
- Nell Newman Foundation
- North Star Fund
- Surdna Foundation
- The Campbell Foundation
- The John Merck Fund
- The Osprey Foundation
- The Springcreek Foundation
- TomKat Charitable Trust
- Ulupono Initiative
- Wholesome Wave Foundation

You may find a directory of SAFSF members at <http://www.safsf.org/who/directory.asp>

Membership applications are reviewed 4-times yearly. Review dates are January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Virginia Clarke at vclarke@safsf.org.

SAFSF STEERING COMMITTEE

SAFSF is fortunate to have a strong, very capable and engaged leadership team. Our 2012 Steering Committee includes:

- *Tim Crosby, individual donor
- *Scott Cullen, GRACE Communications Foundation, *Co-Chair*
- Becca Golden, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, *Co-Chair*
- Greg Horner, Cedar Tree Foundation
- ^Andrew Kang Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Cecily Kihn, Agua Fund
- Ron Kroese, The McKnight Foundation
- Ricardo Salvador, W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- Geraldine Wang, William Penn Foundation
- ^Mailee Walker, Claneil Foundation

** indicates new member as of July 1, 2011*

^ indicates new member as of January 1, 2012

2011 BY THE NUMBERS

7 funder in-person convenings
10 funder learning calls / webinars + over **25** study group calls
201 Forum 2011 attendees (up from 90 in 2009!)

15 new members
69 total members
\$115K Budget increase from FY11 to FY12

SAFSF FINANCES

FY11 (July 2010-June 2011) was a time of major growth for SAFSF—in terms of staffing up the office, *having* a new office, collaborating on new projects and increasing attendance at the June Forum. Together, these major changes contributed to our ending the fiscal year in the red—a first since the network formed nearly fifteen years ago. This was not unexpected as staff and the Steering Committee maintain close financial oversight and the shortfall was offset by our reserve funds. As we move forward, we are confident SAFSF will operate on a positive financial path as we welcome new members and engage in exciting new projects.

FY11 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) Audited Financials

Total Revenues: \$429,028.70
Total Expenses: \$453,939.84
Beginning Balance: \$22,722.58
Excess Revenue Over (under) Expenses*: (\$24,911.14)
Ending Balance: (\$2,188.56)
Reserve Fund: \$120,000.00
Total Funds: \$117,811.44

FY12 Mid-year Financial Snapshot (as of December 12, 2011)

Total Revenues to date: \$119,634.85
Total Expenses: \$134,562.13
Beginning Balance**: \$17,811.44
Excess Revenue Over (under) Expenses: (\$14,927.28)
Ending Balance: \$2,884.16
Reserve Fund: \$100,000.00
Total Funds: \$102,884.16

* Excess expenses related to costs associated with moving offices, hiring new staff, and increased Forum expenses.

** The beginning balance represents a \$20,000 transfer out of reserve at the start of FY12.