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- Island Foundation
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**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

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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.

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

2011 YEAR END REPORT

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The old office – AKA Virginia’s garage

The new office!
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 faults 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

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• Monthly Study Group calls – one for each of the 5 study groups!
• Joint calls as part of the Creating Common Ground project
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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)
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 gaped 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.

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[Image of message from the co-chair]

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[Image of the new office]

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