



OCTOBER 2019

Dear Friend:

I am writing to request your support for a new initiative designed to meet the demand for professional development and organizational capacity building among both new and established philanthropic organizations: the **GIH Fund for Effective Philanthropy**. As I prepare to step down after serving with GIH for 12 years, I have reflected on how the field of health philanthropy has changed and on how GIH can best support its continued growth and evolution. I believe it is critically important to increase investments in foundations' own governance and operations.

Developing the human capital of foundation staff, senior management, and governing boards, while also ensuring organizational excellence in policies and practices, is a challenging and continuous endeavor. GIH is well positioned to assist in these efforts, and an increasing number of foundations are turning to us as a key resource. The field of health philanthropy continues to evolve as new health care conversion foundations proliferate and existing foundations bring in new talent. Staff and board members may come to these high-potential organizations with little to no experience in philanthropy and, for some trustees, little to no experience in health.

Many of you are familiar with the programming that GIH already offers to build the human capital of foundation staff, senior management, and governing boards and to ensure organizational excellence in policies and practices. The fund will expand on those past efforts and has several goals that we will hone based on research and feedback:

- **Goal 1: Sustain the Terrance Keenan Institute for Health Philanthropy** over the next several years. Since 2010, this biannual program has nurtured talented practitioners who have shown the potential to be among the next generation of leaders in the field of health philanthropy. To date, 85 individuals have participated, and the next institute is scheduled for the fall of 2020.
- **Goal 2: Expand programming for trustees.** For the past several years, we have hosted trustee-focused sessions at our annual conference to foster peer-to-peer sharing on high priority topics. We intend to make trustee workshops a fixture at future annual conferences and to develop other programming tailored to trustees' interests.
- **Goal 3: Offer a diverse mix of annual conference activities focused on foundation operations and governance:** Many of you are familiar with our popular *Art & Science of Grantmaking* program. GIH plans to continue offering an operations or governance workshop each year, plus additional conference sessions that support and convene staff at different levels within your organization.

- **Goal 4: Increase access to our programming.** For those who cannot attend the annual conference, GIH plans to turn the most successful conference discussions into short publications. And we want to bring the show on the road! Several GIH Funding Partners have mentioned an interest in a workshop closer to home. With funding, we can replicate successful workshops for regional audiences.

To help health funders and their organizations become more effective, equitable, and adaptive, the Fund is designed to support GIH activities over several years. Contributions to the fund will be acknowledged at all fund-related events and on any printed or electronic materials. I appreciate any contribution your foundation can make, but respectfully suggest funders consider contributions between \$5,000 and \$50,000 depending on your size and focus. Please see our [invoice for contributions](#).

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for sharing in GIH's vision of better health through better philanthropy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Beth Harris, Development Advisor, bharris@gih.org.

Sincerely,



Faith Mitchell, PhD
President and CEO

Additional Materials

[Board of Directors](#)

[IRS Tax-Exempt Letter](#)