

# Impact

Winter 2006

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION  
of TEXAS

Bringing Visionary Philanthropists and Worthy Causes Together

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## A Snapshot of How We Compare

Until last month, I was never aware that four of my not-so-distant relatives epitomized the term, "Tall Texans." That's when my uncle showed me a copy of an old newspaper column written by Frank X. Tolbert, the famous reporter for *The Dallas Morning News*. Much to my amazement, Tolbert profiled four brothers from my mother's family who stood respectively at 7 feet, 8 inches; 7 feet, 10 inches; 7 feet, 11 inches; and 7 feet, 11 inches. It's no surprise that Tolbert referred to the brothers as "giants" as he described their discovery by P.T. Barnum in 1879. Yes, they joined Barnum's "Greatest Show on Earth" in London that year, and stayed with the circus until 1888. (The Ringling Brothers didn't buy the circus until after the turn of the century.)

In all honesty, I probably could have gone through life without learning about this little detail in the history of my family. But it could explain why both of my kids have been off the charts in height since they were born in comparison to other children their ages. My daughter, in particular, may hope that her mother's genes start kicking in very soon.

Statistics can be predictable or surprising. But all of us are drawn to them. Human nature makes us interested in knowing how we measure up to others, how we rank against our peers.

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## THSP Initiative Launched to Encourage Math, Science Students.

Preparing Texas students to meet the demands of the new economy

**N**ever in Texas history has there been a greater need for students to develop a passion for science and mathematics. The demand for scientists and engineers to fill 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs in this state is rapidly increasing, and is double the rate for other occupations. Yet the number of young people preparing to enter science and technology fields is dramatically decreasing.

The response to this challenge is the \$71 million Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (TSTEM) Initiative, announced December 15 as the newest partnership effort of the Texas High School Project (THSP). THSP is a public-private initiative committed to increasing graduation rates and college enrollment rates in every Texas community. Communities Foundation of Texas employs the staff that manages the private side of the project and administers program grants.

The goals of the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative are ambitious. But so is the support for this unprecedented movement to redesign the ways public education engages students and encourages them to hone their technology skills.

The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative brings the financial commitment for the THSP to more than \$190 million from a partnership that includes the Texas Education Agency, the office of the Governor, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas and others.

"This is truly a visionary public-private partnership that will help our schoolchildren succeed in the classroom so that they can later succeed in life," said Texas Gov. Rick Perry during the December 15 news conference at Southern Methodist University.

John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Texas High School Project, said the goal will be to get away from the "one size fits all" thinking in education.

The plan is to develop thirty-five science, technology, math and engineering academies in areas of high need

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TSTEM Initiative Announcement at Southern Methodist University, December 15, 2005  
From Left: Lori Fey, Program Officer, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation; Texas Governor Rick Perry; Dr. Jim Truchard, President and CEO, National Instruments; Steve Seleznow, Program Director, Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

photograph by Steve Foxall

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Communities Foundation of Texas has its annual chance to take a snapshot of how we compare to the other leading community foundations and charities in the country. One important collection of general statistics is the Philanthropy 400 list of the largest charitable organizations in the country. The *Chronicle of Philanthropy* publishes the list each year from the thousands of U.S. charitable organizations doing their work across the country and the world. The latest list published by the *Chronicle* starts with United Way of America, and includes other leading organizations such as The Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, Harvard University and YMCA. Proudly, CFT is featured at number 279 on the list. When it comes to community foundations, we move up much higher. Be sure to see the details in the article inside this newsletter on page five entitled, "CFT in Top 10 Among Community Foundations Nationwide."

What these statistics don't tell you, however, is the full scope of charitable work that is being accomplished every day. Regardless of any lists, CFT is only one strand in the fabric of Dallas philanthropy, woven together with many other outstanding philanthropic organizations. Along with these friends and colleagues, we will continue doing our best to improve our society and the lives of everyone. For CFT, that means honoring the charitable desires of our donors and recognizing the needs of the community, never pausing in our work to bring visionary philanthropists and worthwhile causes together. Thank you for your trust and confidence. 🌟



Brent E. Christopher  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**Year-End Giving**

During December 2005, donors trusted CFT with gifts of more than \$50.3 million. Thank you!

# CFT is Helping Change the Face of Downtown Dallas.

**B**ig things are happening in downtown Dallas. And one of the most exciting projects on the horizon is the plan to build a new Museum of Nature and Science on a 4.6-acre tract of land near Field Street and Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

With the announcement on January 12 that the Dallas Museum of Natural History and The Science Place will merge resources and exhibitions to form a single institution, the new \$150 million museum will become a major destination point. The Museum of Nature and Science will have between 150,000 and 200,000 square feet of space for exhibits. The innovative, eye-popping new museum will enable everyone in Dallas to better understand their world.

"Dallas has a long history of being a center of innovation and scientific advancement," said Frank-Paul King, board chairman of the Dallas Museum of Natural History. "We can make sure that our city continues to be a leader in pioneering new technologies that improve our community, our country and our world."

An early step on the road to making the Museum of Nature and Science a reality will be the development of a master plan funded by grants from Communities Foundation of Texas.

On November 30, 2005, the CFT grants distribution committee approved a \$100,000 grant over the next two years for the museum master plan, funded from the Sammons Foundation Fund at CFT. Museum planners will use \$25,000 of the funding to develop a site plan and \$75,000 to create an initial program plan and exhibit design for the museum facilities.

"We hope that the master plan will be helpful to the museum as it pursues its fundraising drive," said

J. Cook, vice president of grants for Communities Foundation of Texas.

Nicole Small, chief executive officer of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, said the grant for master planning will act as a leverage point for raising funds.

Communities Foundation of Texas has approved a number of grants in recent years for projects that will greatly enhance the City of Dallas. Grants distributed by CFT offered early funding for the new Frontiers of Flight aviation museum at Dallas Love Field. The foundation also provided initial major funding for the new Dallas Center for the Performing Arts.

Likewise, the University of North Texas received grant funds distributed by CFT to help finance planning for the university's important new southern Dallas campus.

Construction of the Museum of Nature and Science will begin when financial pledges exceed \$75 million. Hunt Petroleum has committed \$10 million to the project, and the Hoglund Foundation, chaired by Forrest Hoglund, has contributed \$5 million.

"I am proud to thank the trustees of Communities Foundation of Texas and Brent Christopher for already committing \$100,000 to go toward developing the master plan for the Museum of Nature and Science," Mr. Hoglund said. "Today, we are creating the foundation on which we will build an outstanding institution in the coming years." 🌟



Above: Site map for the Museum of Nature and Science on the north side of downtown, shown in yellow behind the new Victory Park. Communities Foundation of Texas funded the development of the master plan which is a critical step in making the project a reality.

# Worthy of Consideration.

Chances to give; recommended CFT grant requests that weren't funded

**C**ommunities Foundation of Texas receives many grant requests that are worthy of support, but are not approved just because the limited amount of available discretionary funds at the foundation has been exhausted. The November 30, 2005 meeting of the grants distribution committee was no exception.

CFT encourages donors and fund advisors to consider the following grant requests that are for worthwhile investments in the community, but could not be funded at the November meeting:

**Assistance League of Dallas** sought \$25,000 to provide school uniforms to approximately 500 children at Burnet Elementary School.

**Bishop Dunne Catholic School** asked for \$50,000 to buy furniture and technology for

science and math classrooms in the middle school expansion.

**Captain Hope's Kids** requested \$15,000 to fund the Babies, Infants and Toddlers of Hope program, which provides diapers and other hygiene products to homeless mothers.

**Center for Housing Resources** sought \$25,000 to continue to expand the Emergency Home Repair Program which provides free home repairs for low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners.

**Dallas Children's Advocacy Center** asked for \$15,000 to support a therapy program that provides counseling to more than 800 clients annually, most of whom have been sexually abused.

**Dallas Theater Center** requested \$75,000 to assist in the purchase and retrofitting of a new site for the center's production building and pay for moving costs.

**Frontiers of Flight Museum** sought \$60,000 to purchase hand-held audio wands that will allow visitors to learn about the museum's exhibits in a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

**Mary Crowley Medical Research Center** requested \$1 million to fund research that seeks to

define a methodology for the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of the genes associated with prostate cancer.

**Metroplex Animal Coalition** asked for \$97,691 to fund about 2,000 spay and neuter surgeries for animals in the City of Dallas.

**Media Projects, Inc.** sought \$50,000 to cover production and post-production costs on "A Fair to Remember," a documentary on the history of the State Fair of Texas.

**Online College Network** requested \$369,000 to support an Internet platform that will link college personnel to local high school students at no charge to the students. The system makes it possible for students of all socio-economic backgrounds to place their portfolios online. The database allows college personnel to match students with scholarships, increasing the students' opportunity to pursue a higher education.

**Partners Together for Health** sought \$50,000 as part of a capital campaign to construct a patient care tower at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

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that will produce at least 3,500 Texas high school graduates annually.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative also will create five to six centers across Texas that will develop innovative teaching materials and hone the teaching skills of math and science instructors.

The Texas Education Agency has committed \$20 million in state funding and \$10 million in federal funding. The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation each have committed \$20 million. Communities Foundation of Texas has provided \$1 million in services and has pledged to raise an additional \$10 million from leading businesses, foundations and individuals.

## Not Making the Grade

According to THSP

- ☛ On the 10th grade TAKS in spring 2005, only 58 percent of the students passed the math section and only 54 percent passed the science section.
- ☛ The TAKS passing rates in science and math are lower than passing rates in English language arts.
- ☛ Only 38 percent of the African American students in the ninth grade passed the math and science sections of the TAKS and only 44 percent of the Hispanic students made a passing grade.
- ☛ The U.S. demand for scientists and engineers is increasing at double the rate for other occupations, yet the number of students in Texas and elsewhere entering these fields of study has sharply declined.

National Instruments Corporation, a technology pioneer based in Austin, has announced it is contributing \$1 million to the initiative.

"It is encouraging to see additional corporate and individual leaders catch the vision for this project," said Charles J. Wyly, Jr., chairman of the board of Communities Foundation of Texas. "By working together, we can nurture high quality math and science education for Texas students."

Gov. Perry predicted that the math and science initiative would become a model for the rest of the nation. 🌟

# Investment in Dallas' Future Stars.

Discretionary grants approved, including challenge grant for Arts Magnet campaign

**C**ommunities Foundation of Texas added to a significant list of grants in 2005 with the approval of a special \$500,000 multi-year challenge grant to the Advisory Board of the **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.**

The advisory board is raising \$47 million in a campaign to build new facilities for the highly-acclaimed arts magnet school in the downtown Dallas Arts District.

The challenge grant, approved by the CFT grants distribution committee on November 30, 2005, will be paid out over five years and provide added impetus to an already successful fundraising campaign.

“The arts magnet school has been such a positive influence on the lives of some of our most talented and gifted students,” said Charles Wyly, Jr., chairman of the board of Communities Foundation of Texas. “This challenge grant contributes to the broad community support for Booker T. Washington High School that will enable the school to play an even more important role in this city, the Dallas Arts District and the Dallas Independent School District. It will inspire future generations of public school students who share a passion for the arts.”

I.D. (Nash) Flores III, chairman of the Arts Magnet Building Campaign, said, “We are very grateful for this grant, which will help us start construction on schedule. The campaign has raised \$39 million in gifts and pledges toward our \$47 million goal and we are very excited about our progress.”

In total, the CFT distribution committee approved grant requests from discretionary funds for a wide variety of cultural programs

and social services. The diversity of the funding requests is reflective of the many needs now served by donors from Communities Foundation of Texas. Here are some examples:

A \$20,000 grant was approved for **Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic** in West Dallas to provide mental health services for patients. The clinic has been serving low income residents of the area since 1972.

A \$100,000 grant was authorized over the next two years to support construction of a

the festival amphitheater.

**Imagine the Impossible Learning and Training Dance Center** was recommended to receive \$30,000 so the organization can continue to offer ballet instruction at 26 elementary schools in the Oak Cliff area. These ballet instructors help minority students gain discipline for academics through dance training.

A \$12,191 grant was recommended for **Exodus Ministries**, an organization founded in 1987 to help parolees reintegrate into society.



photograph by Joe Patronite

Learning and Cultural Arts Center at **C.C. Young Memorial Home** near White Rock Lake.

**Emanuel Community Center** in East Dallas was authorized to receive a \$60,000 grant to make its buildings safer and more accessible to the community.

The distribution committee approved a \$50,000 grant for **Shakespeare Festival of Dallas** that will pay for needed equipment at

During the current fiscal year, which started last July 1, CFT already has facilitated more than \$36.6 million in grants, including recommendations from donor-advised funds, grants from designated funds, and discretionary grants initiated by CFT. These grants are making a difference in the north Texas community and well beyond. 🌟

# CFT in Top 10 Among Community Foundations Nationwide.

**C**ommunities Foundation of Texas ranks in the top 10 among community foundations nationwide in annual gifts received and grants paid, according to a recent annual study by the Columbus Foundation.

The survey of 637 community foundations ranked CFT eighth in grants paid and tenth overall in gifts received. The Columbus Foundation reported that Communities Foundation of Texas made grants totaling \$67,639,000 in its last fiscal year (ending June 30, 2005) and received gifts totaling \$77,535,000.

CFT was the only community foundation in Texas ranked among the top 10 for grant making. The foundation also was ranked 14th for the market value of its investments with a total of \$646.3 million at the end of its last fiscal year.

The Columbus Foundation, which has sponsored and prepared annual surveys of community foundations since 1988, reported broad continued growth in gifts, grants and assets.

Foundations surveyed received a total of \$4.2 billion in gifts during 2004, a nine percent increase over the previous year. Grants totaled \$3 billion, a 14 percent hike over 2003.

Although the spate of natural disasters during the past year have focused the public's attention on specific needs, The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports that America's largest charities grew by 11.6 percent in its recently released annual survey.

Philanthropy. A total of 29 community foundations nationwide made the Chronicle's list of top 400 charities.

Communities Foundation of Texas responded to the challenge of natural disasters last fall by providing more than \$1.3 million in relief funds to victims of hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. The effort provided further evidence that the foundation is able to make an effective response to emergencies while continuing to

## Top 10 Community Foundations by Grants Made Last Year

1. New York Community Trust	\$186,975,604
2. Peninsula Community Foundation	115,767,740
3. Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	96,940,946
4. California Community Foundation	94,247,440
5. Foundation for the National Capital Region	83,251,153
6. Community Foundation of Silicon Valley	75,934,700
7. Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee	67,717,683
8. Communities Foundation of Texas	67,639,000
9. The Cleveland Foundation	62,950,565
10. The San Francisco Foundation	62,100,000

The Chronicle listed Communities Foundation of Texas 279th among all charities nationwide in the amount of gifts it received and grants made.

Community foundations are enjoying a significant increase in funding, according to the Philanthropy 400 study of The Chronicle of

serve the community as a whole.

CFT also is administering a \$200,000 grants program of the Allstate Foundation for nonprofit groups in storm-damaged southeast Texas (see the newsletter article, right). 

## Congress Tackles Charitable Reform

As 2005 drew to a close, Congress was contemplating a number of charitable reform provisions that would affect foundations.

The Tax Relief Act of 2005 (S. 2020), which passed the Senate on November 18 by a vote of 64-33,

includes potential new rules for donor-advised funds, new tax treatment and payout requirements for certain types of gifts, a prohibition of grants between private foundations and supporting organizations, and other related matters.

The later House of Representatives version of the tax relief bill (H.R. 4297) does not contain any charitable

reforms. Therefore, a House-Senate conference committee will have to reconcile differences between the two bills.

Communities Foundation of Texas will continue to monitor the legislation and keep you informed. 

## Allstate Foundation Partners with CFT for Hurricane Relief

The Allstate Foundation has partnered with Communities Foundation of Texas to help rebuild communities, homes and lives in southeast Texas cities hit hard by Hurricane Rita in September 2005.

The Allstate Foundation launched a \$200,000 program in January that will provide grants to non-profit organizations helping victims of the devastating hurricane. The assistance in southeast Texas is part of a regional program by The Allstate Foundation Hurricane Recovery Fund that is awarding more than \$1.2 million in grants to groups affected by Hurricane Rita.

The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization funded by contributions from subsidiaries of the Allstate Corporation.

"Even in the midst of such tragedy and destruction, we see daily examples of people helping their neighbors, family and friends recover and rebuild their lives," said Rich Crist, field vice president of Allstate's Texas region. "Non-profit organizations bring people together to make an unparalleled impact in our communities."

Communities Foundation of Texas administers The Allstate Foundation Hurricane Recovery Fund and evaluates grant applications. "In addition to the substantial emergency relief already provided through CFT since the recent hurricanes, we are proud to use our services and expertise alongside Allstate for this program that will make available crucial support for rebuilding lives and communities," said J. Cook, vice president for grants at Communities Foundation of Texas.

Mr. Crist said The Allstate Foundation asked CFT to administer the fund because of its strong reputation in managing grant programs. "We are partnering with one of the foremost community foundations in the country to evaluate and administer grants on our behalf," he said. "Communities Foundation of Texas possesses the local knowledge of the non-profit community that will ensure that Allstate's contributions make the greatest impact." 



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The transfer of appreciated stock to Communities Foundation of Texas is one of the best ways to be charitable and avoid paying capital gains tax. But the foundation does not automatically learn the name of the donor when a stock transfer is made to the foundation's brokerage account. So, please be sure to let Communities Foundation of Texas know about a gift of stock. We want an opportunity to thank you and to give credit where credit is due. When you make a stock gift to CFT, or to learn how easy it is to make one, simply call CFT controller Ms. Kris Thomas at (214) 750-4222. 🍁

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**Presbyterian Hospital Foundation** requested \$180,000 to support the Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas Asthma Management Program. The program has partnered with L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary School in the Vickery Meadows area in an attempt to reach more children and families.

**Richardson Regional Medical Center Foundation** requested \$250,000 toward a \$5 million capital campaign to purchase equipment for the new Richardson Regional Cancer Center to be constructed in Collin County. Richardson Regional Medical Center is partnering with The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center to bring the first National Cancer Institute-designated facility to North Texas.

**Special Care & Career Services** asked for \$18,200 for replacement and purchase of specific technology that will improve the agency's operational efficiency. The service helps children and adults with developmental disabilities live fulfilling lives in their communities.

For more information about any of these grant requests as you consider your own grant recommendations, please contact the CFT grants department at (214) 750-4222. 🍁

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