



**Association of Charitable Foundations**

# **ACF Review of the Year 2009**

**The leading membership association for the UK's charitable  
and independent funders**

# Foreword



Since our 20th Anniversary report last year it has proved a challenging year for our members and the voluntary sector, but we are pleased to have maintained our membership and achieved a small operating surplus. Through our surveys and other reports we have been supporting members in their responses to the recession. We have also seen our facilitation of collaborations grow, such as through our Issue Based Networks or our co-hosting with the Big Lottery Fund of the Intelligent Funding Forum. There is more evidence over the past three years of our role in supporting greater shared working.

This review of the achievements of the year includes the increased attendance at our events; the improvements to our regular publications such as **Trust & Foundation News**; as well as the special publications such as those on campaigning or public benefit reporting; and the continuing rise of the reputation of **Philanthropy UK**, established as the leading resource for free and impartial advice to aspiring philanthropists who want to give effectively. During 2010 we have added our very successful linked debates on the role of foundations and established the new series of seminars on effective endowment management.

An exciting prospect is the work made possible through funding from the **LankellyChase Foundation**, the **Barrow Cadbury Trust** and **CAF**. We are very pleased that this has enabled us to appoint a new **Membership Development Manager** to promote the benefits of ACF's role and services for foundations; to continue to extend our membership, and thereby our voice. The appointment will provide both more sustainable income for ACF as well as attendees at our events; in addition to greater opportunities for members to exchange experiences with a still wider and more diverse range of trusts. This is an especially valuable appointment just when there are likely to be many more demands upon independent funders.

This Review only covers the highlights of ACF's work, together with a summary of our accounts for 2009. The full Annual Report and Accounts is available from our website. ACF, through its members, can be proud once again of a wide range of achievements across many fields. Thank you for your continued support that has enabled us to deliver these.

**Clare Thomas MBE, Chair, and David Emerson, Chief Executive**

ACF is the leading membership association for the UK's charitable and independent funders and the gateway to a wealth of expertise, services and events specially devised for grant-makers and philanthropists, including:

- **Networking** – networking opportunities on funding issues through meetings and access to the members' area of the ACF website;
- **Sharing good practice** – a Professional Development Programme for funders designed and delivered by top practitioners;
- **A voice for funders** – representation at a policy level with key government and sector decision-makers;
- **Peer support** – a protected space for charitable funders to discuss the issues that concern them.

For more information about our services please visit the ACF website at [www.acf.org.uk](http://www.acf.org.uk).

# ACF Review of the Year 2009

Below is a snapshot of some of ACF's achievements in 2009. Fuller information is in the complete Trustees' Annual Report (with the 2009 Accounts), available via our website.

## A challenging environment... ?

- **ACF had a successful year against a difficult background for endowed grant-making trusts:** we provided an enhanced range and quality of services, and celebrated our **20th Anniversary AGM in June**, with a review of the achievements of the first 20 years. We followed that in October with excellent attendance at our **Conference**, with over 280 delegates and extremely positive feedback from members.
- There was a continuing **focus on recession**, and we undertook a member survey on the **impact of the financial downturn**, giving us an excellent insight into the position of members in difficult financial times. Published in June, this was supported by regular articles in **Trust & Foundation News** and a series of columns by Philanthropy UK tracking the impact of recession on giving.
- Through the year we responded to many media and other enquiries about how trusts were being affected and were likely to respond, including those around the ability of endowed trusts to be more counter-cyclical in their funding.

## Providing opportunities for collaboration and networking through our events

- The very successful **2009 Professional Development Programme** included five new seminars and improved take-up of places: over 300 people attended these and our other special seminars.
- For the first time in many years every **Issue Based Network (IBN)** met at least once during the year, including a new Gypsy and Travellers Network. Almost 300 members attended 26 meetings, a considerable increase on 2008. Many IBNs now have resource pages on our website.
- Jointly with the Mercers' Company we ran a well attended and successful **conference on penal affairs**.
- Following the Charity Commission report **Firm Foundations** on the management of foundations' assets, in November we organised a seminar jointly with the Commission on the future role of foundations.
- At the invitation of the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of the City of London the annual meeting for the **Chairs of ACF member organisations** was held in The Mansion House in November.
- We continued to provide the secretariat for the **Woburn Place Collaborative** group of foundations with a focus on social justice, and helped to organise a one-day colloquium adjacent to ACF's own conference in October.

## Supporting members in their work through our publications

- We published four issues of **Trust & Foundation News**, offering members the opportunity to share their experiences with other foundations, and we implemented new features and design.
- **Funders' News**, a summary of relevant developments in legislation, regulation and the policy arena was produced monthly in hard copy and as an email bulletin. In 2009 it was supplemented by a number of topical **briefings**, as for example on the **NCVO Funding Commission** and **EU Withholding Tax**.
- A new booklet, **How Charitable Trusts can support Campaigning Activity**, was produced for trustees, as well as a scenario planning guide for member trustees on **The Financial Environment: Planning for the Future**.
- With input from the Charity Commission, we prepared a first briefing on **Reporting on Public Benefit**, and with further Commission help and that of Saffery Champness, we then revised our guidance **SORP Made Simpler** to include guidance on public benefit reporting.

- ACF project, Philanthropy UK launched the third edition of the much acclaimed **A Guide to Giving** supported by Coutts.
- Four substantial **Philanthropy UK Newsletters** were published on themes of social investment; measuring social impact; philanthropy advice; and the relationship between philanthropy and politics.
- The fortnightly **Philanthropy UK Bulletin** kept readers abreast of current news, events, and other resources in UK philanthropy.
- We launched **A Quick Guide to Philanthropy Advisers** as an online resource for donors seeking philanthropy advice.

### Using technology to improve ACF's services to members

- The introduction of a new customer relationship management database, ThankQ, enabled us to administer our conference internally, save money and improve the service to delegates. The new database has the potential to enable us to better tailor our services to members' needs.
- A **Northern Ireland (NI) Knowledge Hub** was established in the members' area of the ACF website with resources available for trusts and foundations who fund work in NI.
- Work to improve members' experience of the website continued throughout 2009, including an improved log-in facility.

### Representing members' interests to policy-makers and regulators

- Two meetings were arranged for members to feed in views on the SORP; many of these were cited in the Charity Commission's final research report.
- With input from ACF and the Business Trusts and Foundations Network the Charity Commission published revised guidance on corporate foundations.
- A meeting was organised for members funding Community Interest Companies (CIC) and the CIC regulator to discuss problems and concerns.
- We facilitated a meeting between the **Shadow Justice and Prisons Ministers** and their teams, and members of the Penal Affairs Network, and a round-table meeting between ACF members and the then Office of the Third Sector on the proposed **Social Investment Wholesale Bank (SIWB)**.
- With HMRC and Treasury we continued participation in the voluntary and community sector-led working group on Substantial Donor Legislation, leading to proposed revised legislation, and provided a briefing paper on our website.

### Since 2009

Highlights of ACF's achievements so far during 2010 include:

- The launch of a series of six seminars on Effective Endowment Management with support from CCLA.
- Three linked discussions on the role of foundations in the current changed financial and policy context.
- Publication of the booklet **Spending out – learning lessons from time-limited grant makers**.
- Publication of **A Good Practice Guide for Corporate Foundations**.
- Improvements to the navigation and design of ACF's website and e-newsletters.

# Statement of financial activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	<b>Total 2009</b>	<i>Total 2008</i>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Grants, Gifts & Donations	-	-	-	22,500
Gifted from Subsidiary Company	6,415	-	<b>6,415</b>	11,768
<b>Activities for Generating Funds:</b>				
Interim Fundraising	-	-	-	18,000
Commercial Support & Sponsorship	-	-	-	25,000
<b>Investment Income:</b>				
Bank Interest	1,971	-	<b>1,971</b>	17,495
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Members' Subscriptions	421,525	-	<b>421,525</b>	419,094
WPC Subscriptions	15,500	-	<b>15,500</b>	18,000
Conferences and Meetings	85,302	-	<b>85,302</b>	73,115
Fees and Grants	-	196,000	<b>196,000</b>	162,568
Sale of Publications	1,198	25	<b>1,223</b>	1,935
Earned Income	50,795	3,200	<b>53,995</b>	44,440
Rent and Services	27,851	-	<b>27,851</b>	32,453
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>610,557</b>	<b>199,225</b>	<b>809,782</b>	<b>846,368</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Members' Services	416,267	-	<b>416,267</b>	377,606
Conferences and Meetings	35,526	-	<b>35,526</b>	45,942
Rent and Services	133,826	16,320	<b>150,146</b>	131,298
Project Expenditure	-	152,236	<b>152,236</b>	188,532
<b>Governance Costs:</b>	<b>20,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,910</b>	<b>15,606</b>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>606,529</b>	<b>168,556</b>	<b>775,085</b>	<b>758,984</b>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>30,669</b>	<b>34,697</b>	<b>87,384</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward at 1.1.09</b>	<b>204,114</b>	<b>66,956</b>	<b>271,070</b>	<b>183,686</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31.12.09</b>	<b>208,142</b>	<b>97,625</b>	<b>305,767</b>	<b>271,070</b>

# Balance sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	<b>2009</b>	<i>2008</i>
	<b>£</b>	<i>£</i>
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>16,485</b>	<i>14,718</i>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2</b>	<i>2</i>
	<b>16,487</b>	<i>14,720</i>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	<b>99,254</b>	<i>54,367</i>
Cash at Bank and In-Hand	<b>301,266</b>	<i>375,200</i>
	<b>400,520</b>	<i>429,567</i>
Creditors: due within one year	<b>(79,240)</b>	<i>(149,217)</i>
Net Current Assets	<b>321,280</b>	<i>280,350</i>
Provisions	<b>(32,000)</b>	<i>(24,000)</i>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>305,767</b>	<i>271,070</i>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Restricted Funds	<b>97,625</b>	<i>66,956</i>
Long Term Reserve & Contingency Fund	<b>150,000</b>	<i>150,000</i>
General Fund	<b>58,142</b>	<i>54,114</i>
	<b>305,767</b>	<i>271,070</i>

## Summarised Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

### Trustees' Report

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are not the full statutory accounts but are a summary of the information which appears in the full accounts. The full accounts have been audited and given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts were approved by the Trustees on 6th September 2010 and a copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission and Registrar of Companies. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Company. For further information the full annual accounts, including the auditor's report, which can be obtained from the Company's offices, should be consulted.

Signed on behalf of the Trustee Board on 6th September 2010



James Brooke Turner – Treasurer



Clare Thomas MBE – Chair

### Independent Auditors' statement to the Trustees of the Association of Charitable Foundations

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009 as set out on pages 5 and 6.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Association of Charitable Foundations for the year ended 31 December 2009

*Kingston Smith LLP*

*Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors*

*Devonshire House*

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Association of Charitable Foundations is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company registration No. 5190466.

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As part of ACF's commitment to environmental sustainability this brochure has been printed on paper from a sustainable source, is elementary chlorine free, and the inks used are vegetable based printed with chemical free plates.

# Our thanks

**In addition to the ongoing support of its members, ACF's work would not be possible without additional support and encouragement from many members and other supporters. We would like to express our particular thanks for these as follows:**

For a core cost grant to develop membership services, focused on ACF support for increased standards in grant-making:

- Charities Aid Foundation

For financial support towards the cost of a new post of Membership Development Manager:

- LankellyChase Foundation and the Barrow Cadbury Trust

For supporting our work in Northern Ireland including the forthcoming appointment of a Development Worker:

- Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland

For its primary support of the ACF 2009 Conference:

- CCLA

For additional support for the ACF 2009 Conference:

- Farrer & Co
- Buzzacott

For its support of the inaugural Wales Funders Conference in Cardiff in October 2009:

- The Waterloo Foundation

For co-hosting a conference on the role of foundations in working with offenders:

- The Mercers' Company

For pro bono support in revising **Sorp Made Simpler**

- Saffery Champness

For their support of the ACF 2010 Conference:

- Buzzacott
- CCLA
- Schroders
- Farrer & Co

For support of our **Effective Endowment Management** seminar series:

- CCLA

For their support for the research and publication of **A Good Practice Guide for Corporate Foundations:**

- Santander Foundation
- Zurich Community Trust

For support and co-hosting of the Intelligent Funding Forum:

- Big Lottery Fund

For supporting an eco-audit of our waste; use of energy, water, transport, and raw materials; and our carbon emissions:

- City Bridge Trust

For its support for a seminar on innovation in February 2010:

- The Innovation Exchange

For volunteering their time as interns working on ACF's conference:

- Hannah Reilly (2009) and Ewa Milczach (2010)

For its continued financial support for the work of **Philanthropy UK:**

- The Office for Civil Society

For its continued support for **A Guide to Giving:**

- Coutts and Co

For volunteering their time on the **Philanthropy UK** Newsletter Advisory Committee:

- Beth Breeze
- David Carrington
- Sue Wixley

**And especially we give our thanks to all those members who have generously given their time to convene Issue Based Networks, to speak at our events and to host meetings on behalf of ACF.**