BUILDING A PHILANTHROPIC LABORATORY

In 2012, the Rita Allen Foundation made path-breaking investments in innovation, collaboration and learning.

Cutting-edge research on antibiotic-resistant pathogens. In-depth reporting about the lives of immigrants in the United States. Tools for tracking the impact of efforts to help students succeed. Crowd-sourced microloans for small businesses. Mobile tools for managing chronic medical conditions. A dashboard where election officials can send and receive key communication from voters going to the polls. This work and much more was made possible by the Rita Allen Foundation in the past year.

The Rita Allen Foundation promotes breakthrough solutions to significant problems in biomedical science and in society. In 2012, the Foundation supported organizations and leaders united by a spirit of innovation—a spirit of creativity and risk-taking matched with a careful attention to what works and what doesn’t, whether in the lab or in the messier testing ground of communities.

Recognizing that careful observation and adjustment is central to any innovation’s success, in 2012 the Rita Allen Foundation created a series of capacity-building workshops for emerging nonprofits on the subject of performance measurement and evaluation. Six organizations working on aspects of civic engagement gathered to learn together and form strategies for measurement that could shed light on the complex dynamics they seek to influence.

We at the Rita Allen Foundation also continued to develop our capacity and learn on many fronts. In-depth conversations with the leaders we support and with experts in our domains are bringing us to seek new ways to provide non-monetary support for our grant recipients. We also welcomed to our professional staff Jonathan Kartt and Kathleen Thompson, who, in addition to knowledge of the nonprofit sector, have a shared commitment to building the Foundation’s culture of inquiry and excellence.

We are continually inspired by the dedication and creativity of those whose ideas and collaborations we invest in, and we hope our community will be as well. I am therefore delighted to present this snapshot of the work the Rita Allen Foundation supported in 2012.

With best regards,
Elizabeth Good Christopherson
President and Chief Executive Officer
OUR MISSION

The overall mission of the Rita Allen Foundation is to invest in transformative ideas in their earliest stages to leverage their growth and promote breakthrough solutions to significant problems.

Areas of active interest include investing in young leaders in the sciences and social innovation, promoting civic literacy and engagement, and building stronger communities. Based in Princeton, New Jersey, the Rita Allen Foundation was established in 1953.

For over thirty years the Foundation has sponsored a Scholars program that has supported more than 100 scientists and researchers, many of whom have made important advances in medical research.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To honor our rich history and to guide our activities in the future, we, the Directors and staff of the Rita Allen Foundation, embrace the following Guiding Principles:

1. **Innovation**
   We will be an innovative and agile organization; to this end, we will rely on strategic, collaborative approaches to initiate and support pioneering programs that break new ground and challenge the status quo.

2. **Focus**
   We will focus our efforts on enduring areas of domestic and global concern; our goals especially include advancing the frontiers of biomedical science, leadership and education. We will respond to short-term societal needs and undertake programs consistent with the mission and vision of the Foundation.

3. **Lasting Outcomes**
   We seek to advance new ideas and discoveries that address the root causes of challenging problems; we will define success by objectives linked to a significantly positive and lasting impact on individuals and the broader society.

4. **Collaboration**
   We will work with and convene leaders to develop and implement strategies that support innovation and bring new ideas and information to targeted groups; new areas of collaboration will evolve as we continually reevaluate human needs.

5. **Core Values**
   We will bring to our work and seek in our relationships with others a commitment to, and belief in, the positive power of courage, hope, passion and shared aspirations; we are committed to translate these core values into effective action.

6. **Leadership**
   To be a leader and a model both in our programs and in our operations, we will embrace appropriate levels of risk; we will foster an entrepreneurial spirit informed by inquisitiveness, due diligence, creativity and responsible stewardship of our assets.

7. **Learning**
   We will engage in a collegial process of continuous learning, hard work and reassessment; we recognize that these qualities are essential to achievement of our mission.
The Board of Directors of the Rita Allen Foundation is responsible for governing, advising and overseeing our policy, direction and resources. Directors assist with the leadership and general promotion of the Rita Allen Foundation to support our mission, our needs, and the work of our Scholars and other grant recipients.
The Scientific Advisory Committee of the Rita Allen Foundation consists of leading scientists and clinicians from the finest institutions in the world. Augmented by their collective experiences in medical discovery and development within academia and industry, members of the Committee are critical advisors to the Rita Allen Foundation Board of Directors on matters involving our Scholars program and other grant proposals.

Dr. Kathleen M. Foley
Rita Allen Foundation Medical Advisor
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC)
Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University

Dr. Douglas T. Fearon
University of Cambridge
Wellcome Trust Immunology Unit

Dr. Charles D. Gilbert
The Rockefeller University

Dr. Gregory J. Hannon
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Dr. Jeffrey D. Macklis
Harvard University
Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical School Center for Nervous System Repair

Dr. Carl F. Nathan
Weill Cornell Medical College
Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University

Dr. Joan A. Steitz
Yale School of Medicine

Emeritus Members
Dr. Maurice S. Fox
Dr. Irving H. Goldberg
Dr. Howard H. Hiatt
Dr. Thomas M. Jessell
Dr. Arnold J. Levine
Dr. James D. Watson
Dr. Torsten N. Wiesel

1 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar 1978-82 • 2 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar 1986-90
3 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar 2000-02 • 4 Rita Allen Foundation 1991-95
5 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar 1984-85 • 6 Rita Allen Foundation Scholar 1984-85
In addition to professionals who provided expertise in a variety of areas to support the work of the Rita Allen Foundation, we recognize the contributions of Jonathan Kartt, Program and Evaluation; Laura Longman, Finance; and Kathleen Thompson, Operations and Program.

Elizabeth G. Christopherson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rita Allen Foundation Scholars – Class of 2012
Sreekanth Chalasani, Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Christopher Hammell, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Michael Jankowski, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
Xin Liu, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Michael Long, NYU School of Medicine
Luciano Marraffini, The Rockefeller University
Sarah Ross, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Since 1976, the Rita Allen Foundation Scholars program has provided transformative grants to young leaders in biomedical research, allowing the pursuit of innovative research. The more than one hundred past recipients have made significant advances in their fields of research and have received honors including the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the National Medal of Science and the Wolf Prize in Medicine.

The Scholars program supports basic biomedical research in the fields of cancer, neuroscience and immunology. There also is currently a joint award, which is sponsored by the Rita Allen Foundation in collaboration with the American Pain Society, for research relating to the alleviation of pain. Scholars are nominated by invitation only and then selected by the Rita Allen Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee, whose members are leading scientists and clinicians from the finest institutions in the world.

Scholars and their affiliated institutions receive grants of up to $110,000 annually, for a maximum of five years. Scholars in the Class of 2012 are investigating subjects including the neural circuits of pain and itch, the role of RNA in regulating gene expression and the development of drug resistance in bacteria. Visit the Rita Allen Foundation website to learn more about the Scholars’ research.

www.ritaallen.org

New Tools for Free and Under-Resourced Clinics
Medic Mobile

Medic Mobile develops and extends open-source platforms that can be used on simple devices, such as cell phones, to support patient care, data collection, and coordinating and mapping health services. Funding from the Rita Allen Foundation is enabling Medic Mobile to create applications to help people manage chronic diseases. A customized system will remind patients to fill prescriptions, check glucose levels and keep to a nutritional diet. Another tool will allow patients to text glucose readings to a secure platform that returns insulin calculations in seconds and tracks glucose measurements over time. Medic Mobile will also develop a toolkit for clinics and a strategy for implementation across the United States.

Josh Nesbit, one of the founders of Medic Mobile, was a PopTech 2009 Social Innovation Fellow and is a partner in the groundbreaking PeaceTXT multidisciplinary project, also supported by the Rita Allen Foundation, which explores the potential of mobile technology to amplify a proven approach to reducing violence, based on a public-health model.

www.medicmobile.org

www.ritaallen.org
PopTech Science Fellows and Social Innovation Fellows 2013–14
PopTech

Each year, PopTech selects high-potential innovators to participate in its two fellows programs. PopTech Science Fellows are scientists in the early to mid-stages of their careers who are working in areas of critical importance to society, such as energy, public health, climate change, computing and ecology. A main objective of the program is to expand the role of science and scientists in public life.

PopTech Social Innovation Fellows are people from diverse fields developing solutions to pressing national, regional and global challenges. They come from mission-driven organizations poised for growth in the for-profit, nonprofit and open-source worlds.

Both fellows programs provide participants with powerful tools for forging new collaborations and creating lasting impact. Through intensive training programs, they build their effectiveness in areas such as leadership, communications and information design. The programs come together at the PopTech annual conference, which gathers cutting-edge leaders, thinkers and doers from many different disciplines and from around the world. Fellows give presentations that are streamed and posted online, and they participate in collaborative sessions with members of the PopTech network who can help amplify the impact of their work.

In addition to intensive work to facilitate new collaborations, in 2013 the PopTech team will also begin to study successful networks in order to gain a deeper understanding of what skills, characteristics and facilitation contribute to collaborative innovation. In the spirit of collaboration, they will be sharing their findings through in-person meetings, case studies and a short documentary capturing the collaborative process.

www.poptech.org

“Imagine what would happen if we put as much effort into the analysis of data when investing in the success of children as we do when investing in our stock portfolios.”

– Jeff Edmondson, Managing Director, Strive Network

Building a Culture of Evidence-Based Decision Making
Strive Network

Strive Together was created to unite community leaders from many sectors around a common mission of supporting the success of every child from birth through school and beyond. Now there are over 95 “Cradle to Career” communities around the country using the Strive approach to facilitate coordinated support for children. Funding from the Rita Allen Foundation is contributing to the development of Strive’s Community Impact Report Card, which allows communities to link data showing improvement to specific activities that made a difference. The system is dynamic, interactive and user-friendly, and it allows users to target areas on which to focus. Strive also developed a Partner Portal through which peer organizations can benefit from each other’s expertise and share their own knowledge, including a creative way to reward active engagement that is consistent with the “time banking” concept used to value the time and energy of community experts. Both projects have promise for wide applicability beyond the education sector and to inform how communities can take on some of our most complex social challenges to get real results.

www.strivenetwork.org
Capacity-Building Pilot Project: Performance Measurement and Evaluation

Grist, iCivics, Knight School of Communication, The Lens, The Right Question Institute and Taxpayers for Common Sense

Building on the success of a capacity-building pilot project focusing on social media strategy, the Rita Allen Foundation created a second capacity-building pilot project in 2012 around performance measurement and evaluation. Six emerging nonprofit organizations were selected to participate from a rich field of nominations. Each of the participating organizations work on an aspect of civic engagement. They were: the Lens, an investigative reporting outlet in New Orleans; Grist, an online news organization that uses humor to engage with environmental issues; the Right Question Institute, which trains people in low- and moderate-income communities to advocate for themselves; Taxpayers for Common Sense, a nonpartisan budget watchdog group that seeks to increase government transparency and expose waste; and iCivics, dedicated to reinvigorating civics learning through interactive resources, founded by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. The pilot project’s curriculum, which was facilitated by Root Cause, centered around defining an organization’s goals, forming hypotheses about paths of change, choosing indicators, resourcing data collection and using data to make decisions. Two of the organizations, Grist and iCivics, were selected to receive additional funding from the Rita Allen Foundation to implement their evaluation plans.

http://thelensnola.org
http://grist.org
http://rightquestion.org
http://www.taxpayer.net
http://www.icivics.org
http://www.queens.edu/Academics-and-Schools/Schools-and-Colleges/Knight-School-of-Communication.html

The Center for Responsive Politics has long been a leading resource for journalists and organizations tracking influence in U.S. politics. It will now be working intensively to build its audience in the broader public by developing online educational tools and social media outreach. It will also be creating a vital online source of data on donations flowing through politically active nonprofits known as “dark money” organizations. Following Citizens United v FEC and other notable Supreme Court cases, the potential influence of anonymous corporate and individual donors using networks of “dark money” groups spending hundreds of millions of dollars became an urgent issue. In addition to giving citizens a route to engagement at a time when many feel shut out from the election process, the initiative will equip and enlist a powerful new network of citizens to help track the influence of donations made through political nonprofits in the years to come.

http://www.opensecrets.org
“Students do math to learn math. They engage in science experiments to learn science. We want them to actually engage in the political process to learn about the political process.”

– Scott Warren, Executive Director, Generation Citizen

**Education News Network**

Education News Network represents a merger of the award-winning education news sites Education News Colorado (Denver) and GothamSchools (New York). It will seek to provide high-quality local news coverage on education policy and practice, ultimately leading to better educational outcomes for children. With support from the Rita Allen Foundation, the Network will expand its coverage beyond the current two sites and launch a fellowship program to train accomplished journalists to run digital education news sites in local markets. Goals include boosting the availability of quality information, a precondition for effective citizen action, and developing new leaders in the field of local education news reporting with skills in both journalism and management.

http://co.chalkbeat.org
http://ny.chalkbeat.org

**Generation Citizen**

Generation Citizen sparks civic engagement in disadvantaged communities by placing mentors in urban schools to guide an “action civics” curriculum focused on community issues. It now works with more than 6,000 students in Providence, Boston and New York City, and it aims to serve 20,000 students per year by 2016. The Rita Allen Foundation is supporting Generation Citizen’s participation in the Bridgespan Group’s Leading for Impact strategic development program as well as its work to evaluate the performance of its program model in advance of expanding coverage to additional cities and students. A qualitative study now available on Generation Citizen’s website traces the mechanisms of the program’s impact and how they can be strengthened. Independent evaluators conducted extensive interviews with students, teachers and mentors and demonstrated both the program’s success in motivating and equipping students and potential routes for improvement.

http://generationcitizen.org
http://generationcitizen.org/our-results
Global Nation
(Formerly Immigrant Lives Initiative)
Public Radio International

Immigrant Lives, a collaboration between Public Radio International and New America Media, is building media coverage, civic literacy and dialogue about issues related to the lives of immigrants in the United States. Through in-depth reporting and a groundbreaking social media effort, Immigrant Lives is designed to elevate public discourse about the experiences, struggles and successes of the over 38.5 million immigrants across America. Stories produced through the collaboration are airing on Public Radio International’s flagship news program PRI’s *The World®* and are distributed through New America Media’s network of ethnic press, the largest in the nation.

http://pri.org
http://www.pri.org/verticals/global-nation
http://newamericamedia.org

The Pew Charitable Trusts’ Voting Information Project (VIP) was designed to improve access to state and local election resources on and before Election Day and thereby decrease voter disenfranchisement. The program is conducted in partnership with several technology companies including Google and Microsoft and with state election officials and technology officers from across the country. It uses sophisticated data-matching techniques, online databases and social media to expand access to key information while providing election officials with diverse applications and a social media dashboard that allows direct information exchange with voters.

On Election Day in November 2012, VIP tools were used approximately 25 million times, offering critical rules-of-the-road information for voters about where and how to vote. Voters in New Jersey and New York, where many polling places were devastated by Hurricane Sandy, were able to use VIP tools to find their new polling places. In two of the nation’s largest cities—New York and Chicago—official election websites crashed shortly before or during voting hours, but local officials were able to address the problem quickly, redirecting voters to the Voting Information Project tools, or replacing their polling-place locators with the project-based Google Voter Information Tool until their sites were working again. With support from the Rita Allen Foundation, Pew developed a free social media dashboard for election officials called ElectionDesk. The application allows state and local election officials to monitor issues in real time and interact with voters via multiple social media platforms at once, including Twitter, Google+ and Facebook. In advance of the 2012 election, VIP trained over 60 election officials on how to use ElectionDesk and continues to work with state and local election officials to improve it.

https://votinginfoproject.org
Clinical Research Experience for High School Students (CREHST)
Cancer Institute of New Jersey

A new outreach program of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Clinical Research Experience for High School Students (CREHST), will provide an opportunity for promising students from underrepresented groups to gain first-hand experience in state-of-the-art biomedical research. Participating students will be recruited from schools in and around New Brunswick, where the Cancer Institute is based, and will spend a year learning about cancer biology and conducting original research with guidance from both a faculty member and a graduate or postdoctoral mentor. The students will be immersed in a clinical and interdisciplinary research environment ideal for fostering the next generation of biomedical breakthroughs. The students will also present their findings to their classmates, further strengthening ties between the Cancer Institute and its neighboring communities.

Pictured above, Maria Dominguez, a rising junior at New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School and a member of the inaugural class of the CREHST program, works on her research project at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. In addition to exposing students to the excitement of biomedical research the CREHST program will actively promote their careers in cancer research.

http://cinj.org

Kiva City Newark
Kiva Microfunds

The Rita Allen Foundation is supporting the creation of Kiva City Newark, an effort to forge collaborations among Newark organizations, government, small-business owners and the microfinance community. It will also connect small businesses and entrepreneurs in Newark to a global network of lenders through Kiva.org, which enables people to lend as little as $25 to low-income borrowers. Newark joins Detroit, New Orleans, Los Angeles and Little Rock as recently created Kiva Cities. In addition to providing access to financing in underserved areas, Kiva City provides small businesses with in-depth support through training and new relationships with community organizations and city government. The local economy and job market are expected to be strengthened for the long-term as awareness of the local small-business community grows and available resources increase.

http://www.kiva.org/newark
Hurricane Sandy Relief
Community Foundation of New Jersey
Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation

In late October 2012, winds and floodwaters from Hurricane Sandy devastated communities along the Northeast coast and particularly in New Jersey. The Rita Allen Foundation is supporting recovery efforts aimed at addressing long-term needs and building more resilient communities.

The Community Foundation of New Jersey’s New Jersey Recovery Fund, to which the Rita Allen Foundation is contributing, is a joint effort between local and national foundations, New Jersey corporations and individuals to provide support to New Jersey communities and nonprofit organizations affected by or responding to Hurricane Sandy.

The Jersey Shore Partnership Foundation, which the Rita Allen Foundation is also contributing to, is revisiting how New Jersey undertakes beach nourishment projects. It is engaging local, state and federal agencies and working with coastal communities to create a vision for a Shore Protection Master Plan to address protection of coastal resources in the context of the impacts of Hurricane Sandy.

http://www.cfnj.org
http://jerseyshorepartnership.com
### Statement of Financial Position, Modified Cash Basis

For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalent</td>
<td>$ 9,198,034</td>
<td>$ 1,952,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>130,409,611</td>
<td>150,254,851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from broker, net</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>470,257</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 139,607,645</td>
<td>$ 152,677,857</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to broker, net</td>
<td>$ 110,301</td>
<td>$ –</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>135,802,902</td>
<td>148,986,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>114,820</td>
<td>111,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>3,579,622</td>
<td>3,579,622</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>139,497,344</td>
<td>152,677,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 139,607,645</td>
<td>$ 152,677,857</td>
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## Statement of Activities, Modified Cash Basis

For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue and Support</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income (Loss)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>$ 4,047,358</td>
<td>$ 372,269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>4,095,529</td>
<td>497,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation gain</td>
<td>28,630</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs attributable to investments</td>
<td>(438,427)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income (Loss)</td>
<td>7,733,090</td>
<td>869,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in beneficial interest in inter vivos trust</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>716,551</td>
<td>(716,551)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue and Support</td>
<td>8,449,641</td>
<td>153,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant awards</td>
<td>5,614,316</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program and foundation operations</td>
<td>1,111,650</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal excise tax</td>
<td>94,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>6,819,966</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets before</td>
<td>1,629,675</td>
<td>153,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation in fair value of investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation in fair value of investments</td>
<td>(14,813,038)</td>
<td>(150,356)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(13,183,363)</td>
<td>2,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$ 148,986,265</td>
<td>$ 111,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>$ 135,802,902</td>
<td>$ 114,820</td>
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</tbody>
</table>