# RITA ALLEN FOUNDATION 

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY <br> 

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## REPORT TO COMMUNITY

## A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

## 2011 was an exceptional year for the Rita Allen Foundation that signaled the organization's steadfast commitment to building a culture of inquiry and strategic philanthropy.

With the establishment of our Guiding Principles in 2009, followed by a new Mission Statement, three Domains and an Operating Plan in 2010, we further broadened our capacity and outreach in 2011 by:

- Launching our first capacity-building pilot program with six organizations in the area of social media strategy
- Cultivating relationships and deepening partnerships to enhance the impact of our grant investments
- Communicating to a wider circle of constituents through a newly designed website, e-newsletter, and Report to Community
- Codifying our grant guidelines to streamline processes and strengthen connections with our grant recipient organizations
- Building a team of staff and contributing professionals to support our work in the areas of Civic Literacy and Engagement, Young Leaders in Science and Social Innovation, and Community Building

We made great strides in our movement toward a more strategic organization, incorporating governance best practices established over the past 24-30 months and contributing to our Learning Agenda through conversations and counsel from exemplary philanthropic leaders.

We launched, broadened, and refined our involvement in projects and learned more about how others maximize their grant making and utilize
different tools. Over the past year, we engaged more deeply in the bestpractice cycle of "research, design, pilot, assess" in our grant making to reinforce our shared vision of strategic philanthropy.

We also are spending considerable time on the design phase of our grant making before piloting or testing what we are learning. Working closely with grant recipients and independent expert evaluators, we then are delving deeper, assessing progress and continually refining our knowledge and grants process.

Another highlight was our relocation to a new office on Nassau Street, directly opposite Princeton University's entrance gates. Our presence in the heart of historic downtown Princeton and proximity to transportation along the Northeast Corridor provides greater opportunities for access and exchanges among peer organizations, grant recipients and other thought leaders.

We continue with great enthusiasm to work with innovative leaders across a variety of fields, fostering their passion to improve the human condition.

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


Rita Allen Foundation Scholars Meeting, June 22-23, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, with Dr. Arnold Levine, Honorary Chair

## RITA ALLEN

FOUNDATION

## 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.

## RITA ALLEN

 FOUNDATION
## 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

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, needs, and the work of our Scholars and other grant recipients.

William F. Gadsden<br>Chair<br>Elizabeth Good Christopherson<br>President and Chief Executive Officer<br>Aristides Georgantas<br>Secretary<br>Henry H. Hitch<br>Treasurer<br>Robert E. Campbell<br>Jon Cummings<br>Landon Y. Jones<br>Samuel S.-H. Wang, Ph.D.<br>Emeritus Members<br>Moore Gates, Jr.



## THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Scientific Advisory Committee of the Rita Allen Foundation consists of leading scientists and dinicians 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 ${ }^{1}$

Rita Allen Foundation Medical Advisor
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC)
Weill Medical College of Cornell University

## Dr. Douglas T. Fearon

University of Cambridge
Wellcome Trust Immunology Unit
Dr. Charles D. Gilbert ${ }^{2}$
The Rockefeller University
Dr. Gregory J. Hannon ${ }^{3}$
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Dr. Jeffrey D. Macklis ${ }^{4}$
Harvard University
Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical
School Center for Nervous System Repair

## Dr. Carl F. Nathan ${ }^{5}$

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 ${ }^{6}$
Dr. Arnold J. Levine
Dr. James D. Watson
Dr. Torsten N. Wiesel

[^0] recognize the contributions of Robert Friant, Operations and Program; Laura Longman, Finance; and, Genevieve Reilly, Support.
Elizabeth G. Christopherson
President and Chief Executive Officer

## 2011 GRANTS

## YOUNG LEADERS IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Model-Makers: Scaling Impact and Media2Movement
Ashoka
\$50,000 \& \$10,000
Capacity Building Strategic Plan and Project Pilot
Educators 4 Excellence, Generation Citizen,
Global Kids, Green City Force, and Isles, Inc.
\$260,039 \& \$250,000

## Tumor Suppressor Gene

Institute for Advanced Study and Cancer Institute of New Jersey
\$50,000
PopTech Science Fellows and
Social Innovations Fellows 2012
PopTech
\$125,000
Emerging Leaders Project and
Project Pilot
Princeton AlumniCorps
\$100,000 \& \$25,000
Rita Allen Foundation Scholars
\$1,930,000

## CIVIC LITERACY AND ENGAGEMENT

Healthcare Investigative Reporting
Center for Public Integrity
\$250,000
State Integrity Investigation
Center for Public Integrity
\$450,000
Hyperlocal News Project
The Citizens Campaign
\$134,014
Urban Civic Learning Lab
Facing History and Ourselves \$300,000

## SHINE

Public Broadcasting Atlanta
\$50,000
Open State/OpenGovernment.org
Sunlight Foundation
\$300,000

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Will to Create, Will to Live:
The Culture of Terezín
92nd Street Y
\$35,000
Urban Fresh Foods Project
Isles, Inc.
\$150,000
PeaceTXT
PopTech
\$250,000

## A New Natural Approach to Wastewater

 ManagementStony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association \$325,000

## OTHER

Foundations and Social Media
The Center for Effective Philanthropy \$45,000

## Support the Met Broadcasts Campaign

The Metropolitan Opera
\$100,000

## GRANT RECIPIENTIS YOUNG LEADERS IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

## Rita Allen Foundation Scholars - Class of 2011

Briana Burton, Harvard University
Elissa Hallem, University of California, Los Angeles
Rahul Kohli, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Lin, Stanford University
Axel Nimmerjahn, Salk Institute for Biological Studies
E. Alfonso Romero-Sandoval, Dartmouth Hitchcock

Yuanxiang Tao, Johns Hopkins University 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 Scholars program supports basic biomedical research in the fields of cancer, neuroscience and immunology, with more than 100 past recipients representing premier research institutions. There also is currently a joint award, which is sponsored by the Rita Allen Foundation in collaboration with the American Pain Society, for Pain Scholars Research. Scholars are nominated by invitation only and then selected by the Rita Allen Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee, comprised of leading scientists and clinicians from the finest institutions in the world. Scholars and their affiliated institutions receive grants of up to $\$ 100,000$ annually, for a maximum of five years. Investment in our Scholars helps us support pioneering research to advance our understanding of the human condition. www.ritaallen.org

A New Method to Uncover Tumor Suppressor Genes in the Human Population<br>Institute for Advanced Study and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Based on a large data set of information from a previously completed study examining heart disease in the population, the Institute for Advanced Study and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey are working together to validate, through computational analyses and laboratory experiments, a new method of uncovering genetic predispositions to cancer.
The intended impact of this study is to be able to detect new tumor suppressor genes, the absence or mutation of which results in predisposition to cancers. The detection of these genes could lead to diagnostic tests for these disorders.
The Institute for Advanced Study is one of the world's leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry. It exists to encourage and support fundamental research in the sciences and humanities - the original, often speculative, thinking that produces advances in knowledge that change the way we understand the world.The Institute is a private, independent academic institution located in Princeton, New Jersey.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is one of the nation's 40 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers and the only one in New Jersey, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) delivers advanced comprehensive care to adults and children, and conducts cutting-edge cancer research. To gain a "comprehensive" designation, the highest ranking given by the NCl , a center must meet specific criteria in cancer care, research, prevention and education.
www.ias.edu www.cinj.org

Capacity-Building Project Pilot<br>Educators 4 Excellence, Generation Citizen, Global Kids, Green City Force, Isles, Sadie Nash Leadership Project

The Rita Allen Foundation commenced a capacity-building pilot program in 2011.The first phase concentrated on the development of strategic social media plans for participating nonprofits. The second phase is underway with the implementation of the strategic social media plans. We worked with Generation Citizen, Global Kids, Green City Force, Educators 4 Excellence, and Isles to adapt internal processes, ensure sufficient resources, finalize measurements for success and ensure the sustainability of their new social media tools well into the future. Organizations are using the investment from the Rita Allen Foundation to enhance and grow their social media channels to expand membership, networks, outreach and fund-raising. www.educators4excellence.org
www.generationcitizen.org
www.globalkids.org
www.greencityforce.org
www.isles.org
www.sadienash.org

## PopTech Science Fellows and Social Innovation Fellows 2012 PopTech

Each year, PopTech selects a small number of high-potential, early- and midcareer scientists working in areas of critical importance to the nation and the planet, such as: energy, food, water, public health, climate change, conservation ecology, green chemistry, computing, education, oceans, and national security. Ideal candidates for the PopTech Science Fellows program are scientists who have strong innate communications skills and an interest in public leadership but limited formal training. Fellows are given yearlong training and skills development led by a world-class faculty of experts in communications, media
training, public engagement and leadership. The training program convenes in August, and Fellows begin to develop relationships with the faculty, who will provide ongoing guidance and mentoring. Fellows are also provided with significant opportunities to raise their public profile and that of their work through a variety of media, and to participate in a peer-level alumni network.
A main objective of the PopTech Science Fellows program is to develop a corps of visible and trusted scientific leaders who can provide leadership, explore new collaborative approaches and engage with the public on a variety of issues of critical importance to the nation and the planet. In so doing, PopTech hopes to bolster the role of science in the public sphere; to improve the public's literacy and embrace of science; to create new scientific role models for young people; and to create new, multidisciplinary collaboration opportunities for working scientists.
The Science Fellows program is made possible by a number of organizations, including the Rita Allen Foundation, with a deep commitment to expanding the role of young scientists in public life.
The Rita Allen Foundation also supports PopTech's Social Innovation Fellows program, which serves visionary change agents who are incubating highpotential new solutions to pressing national, regional and global challenges.
Each year, PopTech selects 10-20 high potential change agents from around the world who are working on highly disruptive innovations in areas like healthcare, energy, development, climate, education, and civic engagement, among many others. Fellows work in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds, have a minimum of $3-5$ years experience, and are working in organizations that are well positioned for sustainable growth. This program is designed to provide a powerful toolkit for creating real and lasting impact. Fellows also gain increased visibility, access to a year-round community of peers in many sectors and a world-class network of experts and supporters. http://poptech.org

## GRANT RECIPIENTS civic uttracy and engagement

## State Integrity Investigation <br> Center for Public Integrity

Open government is essential to civic literacy and a thriving democracy, and the Center for Public Integrity has become a powerhouse in promoting greater transparency at all levels. By producing original, responsible investigative journalism on significant public issues, the Center has left its mark on reform efforts and movements for better government. Armed with a string of successes, the Center is now focusing on the 50 U.S. states with the State Integrity Investigation. This new initiative promotes transparent state government, and provides a basis for national and local reporting that will help citizens understand if their governments are adhering to the principles of ethics and openness. This project is a collaboration that brings together a trio of organizations: Center for Public Integrity (grant leader); Public Radio International; and Global Integrity. It also enjoys the support of the Omidyar Network. Among the reports the Center anticipates producing are high-profile rankings of the "Top 10 Most At-Risk States for Corruption" and "Top IO Most Accountable State Governments."
www.publicintegrity.org


If 掃: GLOBAL INTEGRITY 5 PRI Public RadioInternational


Filthy surgical instruments: The hidden threat in America's operating rooms


## Healthcare Investigative Reporting

Center for Public Integrity
Continuing its commitment to produce original, responsible investigative journalism on significant public issues, the Center for Public Integrity is building an active and ongoing health care investigative reporting effort to illuminate and more easily explain the complexities of cost drivers, marketplace dynamics, and policy decisions as the debate over health care priorities takes center stage. By developing a comprehensive and reliable resource grounded in their commitment to in-depth, factual reporting, CPI intends to provide information on the costs behind Medicare, the impact of campaign contributions on the formulation of health care policy, and the ramifications of the 2012 national elections on long-term discussions and policies.
www.publicintegrity.org

## GRANT RECIPIENTS civic uitracy and engagement



Facing History and Ourselves is developing an Urban Civic Learning Lab in Memphis, Tennessee, as a model and catalyst to the growth of the organization's ability to enable greater engagement in civic literacy with youth worldwide.
For the past 35 years, Facing History and Ourselves has united with many schools throughout the world and is recognized globally for providing outstanding professional development to educators.

The prototype Urban Civic Learning Lab will draw from the long history of education's role in sustaining civic society. The Rita Allen Foundation's investment will allow Facing History to be an influential voice in urban education reform with best practices for the development of safe schools. Facing History is one of the leading organizations to integrate social and emotional learning goals into academic achievement for middle and high school youth. Major national research confirms Facing History successfully improves students' academic performance by increasing their historical understanding while fostering empathy and positive civic participation.
http://www.facing.org


Facing History
Seminar Participants

## -1)OPEN:STATES

Open States / OpenGovernment.org<br>Sunlight Foundation

Four years ago, the Sunlight Foundation and its partners at the Participatory Politics Foundation (PPF) launched OpenCongress.org, with a goal of nothing less than to transform how citizens access and use information about the U.S. Congress. Unlike the official THOMAS.gov website, OpenCongress makes it easy for anyone to research, comment on, and share information about any bill, Member, or vote in Congress; to find other users with similar interests in particular bills, votes or representatives; to track what news sources are saying about same; to learn what topics are trending among site users; and to explore other forms of social data.
Building on this proven model, the Sunlight Foundation plans to create similar legislative information and community hubs for all 50 states and D.C. These resources are desperately needed. With state governments and the news industry both suffering grave financial constraints, the resources available for state-level transparency have dwindled to a dangerous extent. Yet it is within statehouses that vital decisions are made on matters like education, transportation, taxation and civil rights. The belief that technology can help address this problem is at the heart of Sunlight's project. The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation is helping the Sunlight Foundation to achieve its goal of making it easier for the public to understand and influence how government affects their lives.
http://sunlightfoundation.com

## GRANT RECIPIENTS сомmuNITY bullding

> Leo Lowy, a survivor of Terezín, and Benji Wenzelberg, the boy who portrayed Leo in Remember Me, the 92nd StreetY's Musical Introduction Series Concert for The Culture ofTerezín project.

## PeaceTXT - Using Mobile Technology to End Violence <br> PopTech

Urban street violence that involves the shooting of a gun has taken on epidemic proportions in many large US cities. PeaceTXT is a multidisciplinary project that is studying the potential of mobile technology to amplify a proven approach to reducing violence.
The PeaceTXT project brings together CeaseFire, Medic Mobile and Ushahidi - among them some of the world's best technologists and social innovators - to explore how mobile tools and mobile messaging might further accelerate CeaseFire's ability to engage communities, change social norms, improve its efficacy and find new paths to scale. The investigation is broad but intensive, exploring and rigorously evaluating several possible applications. The initiative is convened under the auspices of the PopTech Accelerator, which incubates unconventional collaborations with significant potential for the social and ecological good.
The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation made possible a collaborative demonstration project that brought together these organizations to evaluate how mobile technology and visual mapping tools can increase the reach and effectiveness of CeaseFire's anti-violence work. http://poptech.org/peacetxt


Will to Create, Will to Live: The Culture of Terezín 92nd Street Y

From January 9 to February 16,2012 , 92 nd Street $Y$ presented Will to Create, Will to Live: The Culture of Terezín, a multi-disciplinary series that explored the cultural significance of Terezín, where 144,000 Jews were sent and 88,000 deported to extermination camps; the series illuminated their art and the legacy of their spirit, which endure. Despite Nazi terror and the desperate conditions common to the ghetto, the Terezín internees produced for themselves a rich and creative cultural community, full of great music, art and educational activity.

Eventually, the Nazis exploited this haven of the human spirit for their own self-serving purposes and propaganda, which has obscured the remarkable and inspirational legacy of Terezín. The Rita Allen Foundation's investment in this ambitious project made possible the creation of a micro-site dedicated to The Culture of Terezín project, which was linked to 92Y's homepage, potentially reaching 4 million+ annual visitors and over 10,000 daily visitors worldwide.
In addition, three panel discussions and a Forum of Ideas day were conducted, delving more deeply into the story of Terezín and the daily life of those who were interned there, as well as going beyond the Holocaust to explore and evaluate how oppression affects different communities worldwide today.
www.92y.org

## GRANT RECIPIENTS сомmunity bullding



## Urban Fresh Foods Project <br> Isles, Inc.

Building on its 30-year history of community and urban agriculture development, Isles, Inc. of Trenton, NJ launched the Urban Fresh Foods Project to further advance their mission to foster self-reliant families in healthy and sustainable communities. This project aims to expand urban agriculture in the Trenton region to over 38 community and school gardens that will grow tens of thousands of pounds of food; educate families and students about food and nutrition; and, expand entrepreneurial, economic development efforts in agriculture. Another key goal is to research, plan and develop a statewide urban fresh foods resource center, designed to foster technical, organizing, financial and other forms of assistance to urban organizations and public bodies statewide. Isles plans to complete a strategic, organization-wide planning process, with a focus on expanding its capacity to offer assistance to others. The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation is helping Isles break new ground in a rapidly growing field by working on a statewide level, where innovative policies, funding and marketing opportunities are available. www.isles.org

A New Natural Approach to Wastewater Management<br>Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

Outdated septic systems are failing at an alarming rate, threatening our environment, our health and communities. In central New Jersey alone, pollution from excess nutrients - from leaking septic systems and sewer lines - is causing aquatic life to falter. To meet this challenge head-on, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is developing and building a new wetlands-based wastewater treatment system at its 860 -acre Reserve to demonstrate a more effective, more energy-efficient and less resourceintensive alternative to the traditional wastewater treatment system. While the system will be most applicable to residential clusters and smaller office complexes, the value of the model and the associated research has the potential to dramatically change the choice millions make in how they process their wastewater. Clean water is the vital lifeblood of our communities and the Rita Allen Foundation's initial investment in the Watershed's solution could help environmentalists ensure that a safe, effective and reasonably priced treatment system is replicated in other parts of the country.
www.thewatershed.org

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT:

Statement of Financial Position, Modified Cash Basis

For the year ended December 31, 2010


## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT:

Statement of Activities, Modified Cash Basis

## For the year ended December 31, 2010




[^0]:    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

