



**SILVERTON** FOUNDATION

*2005 Annual Report and Guidelines*



# SILVERTON FOUNDATION 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

## PURPOSE AND AREAS OF SUPPORT

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The Silverton Foundation is a private family foundation formed in 2000 and headquartered in Austin, Texas. Through its *grant making*, the Foundation strives to empower the working poor to improve their lives by funding specific projects with measurable outcomes. Through its *activities*, the Foundation strives to foster greater community awareness of and commitment to social enterprise.

In the U.S., the Foundation works primarily with organizations and programs that serve residents of the metropolitan Austin, Texas area and surrounding Travis, Williamson and Hays counties. Internationally, the Foundation operates primarily through Australia based non-governmental organizations which conduct programs of special merit in Australia and in developing countries which are in the Foundation's areas of interest.

In 2005, the Foundation allocated \$613,472 through forty-two grants in six program areas: health, which received 12% of grant dollars; education, 11%; social services, 14%; economic development, 11%; social enterprise, 44%; and its special initiative, the Lorna Ryan Foundation's "Growing Tall Poppies" scholarships, 8%. Thirty-seven separate grantees received Foundation funding in 2005.

In rare cases, the Foundation makes grants to organizations outside of these geographic locations and program areas, although such proposals are usually considered only at the Foundation's invitation.

## FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

In 2005 the Foundation's work was distinguished by a series of program initiatives designed to enhance the effectiveness of its grant making.

### *Collaborative Grant Making*

In 2005 the Foundation incorporated collaborative grant making as a core component of its activities to foster greater community awareness of and commitment to social enterprise. The Foundation is convinced that, by acting in concert with other funders, community needs may be more effectively identified and addressed, enhancing both the quality and quantity of Foundation grant making.

The Foundation collaborated on grants with five different foundations in 2005 to create or advance a variety of specific programs and initiatives, all designed to empower the working poor to improve their lives. By way of illustration:

. A collaboration with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation aided creation of an innovative "Meals for Kids" program by Meals on Wheels and More, providing both meals and nutrition education to children from low income families at after school programs in Austin public housing sites.

. A collaboration with the Sooch Foundation underwrote implementation of strategic plan initiatives by Capital IDEA to increase enrollment of low income adult students in its vocational training programs.

. A collaboration with the Topfer Family Foundation will allow design of a program by

Lifeworks to address and overcome barriers low income GED students face in actually acquiring a GED once they are academically ready.

### Capacity Building

To enhance the effectiveness of its grant making, the Foundation seeks ways to empower its grantees to sustain and improve their capacity to provide programs and services. In 2005, the Foundation engaged Greenlights for Non-Profit Success to design and implement a “capacity building” program for selected Foundation grantees.

Through the Silverton Foundation Organizational Assessment Program, agencies commit the time and attention of their staff, board of directors and key stakeholders to work with Greenlights consultants in assessing their internal capacity needs. The agencies also receive related consulting services, workshops, peer learning opportunities and support to build organizational capacity. A detailed written report of the assessment, and a follow up after six months to monitor progress in implementation, are also part of the program. Five agencies completed the organizational assessment process in 2005.

### Disaster Relief

Response to extraordinary natural disasters in the U.S. and overseas was a defining event for philanthropy in 2005. While the southeast Asia tsunami did not directly impact either Foundation grantees or geographic areas where the Foundation is active, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita added greatly to the burden of social service agencies in central Texas, where over 7,000 evacuees from Louisiana were relocated.

In response to unique and considerable community need, the Foundation determined to act outside of its usual mission constraints, but to do so without detracting from the levels of funding normally provided to its targeted programs and agencies. Acting in concert with the Austin Area Funders collaborative for hurricane relief funding coordinated through the Austin Community Foundation, the Foundation made grants to seven central Texas agencies to help lessen the financial burden imposed on these agencies due to hurricane related relief activities and services.

The Foundation's disaster relief grants funded a broad continuum of basic services, including intensive case management to ensure access to transportation, medical care, social security and other benefit programs by the elderly and the working poor; child care for parents looking for work; and needs as basic as housing, food and clothing.

### *Social Entrepreneurship*

The Foundation has established a Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for central Texas in conjunction with the accounting firm of Ernst & Young. The Award carries with it a \$50,000 Silverton Grant which is directed to the organization of the Award recipient.

The purpose of the Award is to recognize talented individuals who have shown extraordinary leadership and innovation in building an organization to address the social needs of the central Texas community. The Foundation believes that qualities of entrepreneurship such as vision, leadership, passion and commitment are as valuable to "social" enterprises as to business enterprises. The Foundation also believes that the success of both "social" enterprises and business enterprises

are essential to the development of successful communities.

The Award is made in June of each year at a presentation ceremony attended by over 800 leaders of the central Texas business, civic and philanthropic community. 2005 marks the second year of the Foundation's grant of the Award.

### East Timor

In 2002 East Timor became the first newly independent nation of the new millennium, following four centuries of Portuguese colonial administration, twenty four years of Indonesian occupation, and three years of interim UN administration.

East Timor experienced a fundamental social and economic upheaval with severe loss of lives and property after its people voted for independence in 1999. As a result, East Timor is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated population of 900,000 and a per capita income of \$400. Most of its population is rural and survives on subsistence agriculture. Approximately 50% of the country's population is under age 15, and approximately 60% of the population is illiterate.

Due in part to its history with and proximity to Australia, East Timor is of special interest to the Foundation and its overseas grant making activities. As a small and new nation struggling to establish a democratic state with an open and free economy, East Timor presents unique opportunities and challenges for Foundation grant making. In support of our commitment and activities, the Foundation has been fortunate to establish special relationships with East Timorese officials, US government personnel and Australian charities ("NGO's) active in East Timor.

Working through US and Australian NGO's,

Foundation funding is facilitating a broad range of initiatives, including:

- . Expansion of a vocational training program for unemployed high school graduates into Baucau, East Timor's second largest city.
- . Training nurse practitioners to provide primary eye care services, and equipping eye care clinics with diagnostic equipment and eyeglasses, to expand eye care service delivery into rural provinces of East Timor.
- . Support for various educational and street outreach programs of a children's shelter in Dili, East Timor's capital, focused on protecting children and youth at risk from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- . Building the capacity of a micro enterprise development loan fund, to enable the direct provision of small, unsecured loans to chronically poor adults in the capital city of Dili, to empower them to start or expand their own small businesses.

### *"Born to Read"*

As an outgrowth of interest in early literacy and family literacy activities, the Foundation has designed its own signature program for implementation in small rural libraries. The goals of this program include introducing new parents to the importance of reading to their children while connecting low income families to resources available at public libraries for the early education of their children.

In 2005 the Foundation piloted its program in two rural communities in central Texas. Known as "Born to Read" at the Taylor Public Library and "Books for Babies" at the Dripping Springs Community Library, these libraries conduct

outreach to families of newborns through local community health centers, churches, schools, doctor's offices, midwives associations, chambers of commerce, newspapers and radio public service announcements. Each newborn in the community receives a gift bag containing baby "board books", an application for a free library card, a "Born to Read" baby bib, and bookmarks and brochures descriptive of library services and the importance of reading to a child.

Based on the outcomes of these two initial pilots, the Foundation will evaluate expanding this program to other rural communities, targeting areas with large working poor populations and limited educational resources.

### Community Tax Centers

In 2004 Foundation funding provided a multi-year lead gift to establish and operate five "Claim and Save" Community Tax Centers in Austin. The centers are designed to ensure that low income working families in central Texas claim and receive their Earned Income Tax Credit. In addition to providing free income tax return preparation, program components include recruiting and training 300 volunteers to serve program clients; establishing five community sites with expanded hours and child care for operations; collaborating with area non-profits, community groups, employers and financial institutions in the operation and promotion of the program; and providing "financial literacy" classes and tools to help families spend their tax credit wisely.

In its first year of operations, the "Claim and Save" program greatly outperformed expectations, with the result that over 7,400 tax returns were prepared and filed and almost \$10MM in refunds were returned to working poor families. The program's success

has attracted additional community funding, to allow more centers to be opened and more clients to be served in 2006.

*Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation Award*

The Foundation was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation of 2005 for the central Texas region. The award was presented at the Association’s Philanthropy Day banquet attended by over 1,000 members of the central Texas philanthropic community. In remarks accompanying the award, it was noted that “The Silverton Foundation is distinguished as an organization dedicated not only to the financial support of non-profit organizations engaged in empowerment programs, but as a valued collaborator committed to working with agency partners to identify and develop effective solutions to community needs.”

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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Pamela M. Ryan, Ph.D....Chairman of the Board  
William P. Wood.....President  
Andrew S. White.....Executive Director

## 2005 GRANT RECIPIENTS

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### **AIDS Services of Austin**

Austin, Texas  
(Health)

To expand operating hours and service capacity at Jack Sansing Dental Clinic.

### **Any Baby Can**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To expand the capacity of grantee's Comprehensive Advocacy and Resources for Empowerment ("CARE") program to provide medical case management, advocacy, counseling and crisis assistance for families with children having special needs.

### **Austin Area School for Dyslexics, Inc.**

Austin, Texas  
(Education)

Operates a full curriculum school for students with dyslexia in grades 2 through 8 (Rawson-Saunders School) in the greater Austin, Texas area.

### **Austin Community Foundation**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Entrepreneurship)

To support the promotion of philanthropy in central Texas and the facilitation of charitable giving in support of the central Texas community.

### **Austin Lyric Opera**

Austin, Texas  
(Education)

To underwrite grantee's "We Are the Chorus" choir for mentally challenged children and young adults.

### **Badgerdog Literary Publishing, Inc.**

Austin, Texas

(Lorna Ryan Foundation\Growing Tall Poppies)

To provide 10 scholarships for children from low income working families to attend grantee's innovative summer creative writing camps, along with a collaborative grant with the Warren Skaaren Charitable Trust to underwrite Grantee's Youth Voices in Ink program at Burnet Middle School

### **Breakthrough**

Austin, Texas

(Education)

To underwrite the cost of training for student teachers participating in Grantee's 2005 summer program, part of its overall program to provide a path to college for high potential, low income students in central Texas.

### **Capital Area Food Bank**

Austin, Texas

(Health)

In support of emergency disaster relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

### **Capital Area Mental Health Center**

Austin, Texas

(Health)

To underwrite the cost of mental health counseling services to residents of central Texas who cannot afford Grantee's lowest sliding scale fee for services based on household size and income.

### **Capital IDEA**

Austin, Texas

(Lorna Ryan Foundation\Growing Tall Poppies)

Collaborative grant with the Sooch Foundation to underwrite scholarships for low income adult students in Grantee's associate degree training program.

### **Catholic Charities of Central Texas**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To help underwrite central Texas area Hurricane Katrina related relief activities and services in collaboration with the Austin Area Funders program established through the Austin Community Foundation.

### **Children's Hospital Foundation of Austin**

Austin, Texas  
(Health)

Funding for certified car seat technician training through the Austin Safe Kids Coalition.

### **Council on Foundations**

Washington, DC  
(Social Entrepreneurship)

To support the promotion of philanthropy and the facilitation of charitable giving.

### **Dripping Springs Community Library**

Dripping Springs, Texas  
(Education)

To underwrite creation of "Born to Read" initiative for 120 newborns in grantee's service area.

### **Dripping Springs Helping Hands, Inc.**

Dripping Springs, Texas  
(Social Services)

To underwrite grantee's summer food for children program, and to assist in provision of school supplies for children of grantee's food pantry program.

### **Easter Seals - Central Texas**

Austin, Texas  
(Health)

To expand capacity for low income clients of Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation Sliding Fee Scale Project.

**Family Connections**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To underwrite grantee's "Family Place Parent/Child Workshop" series for 2005, ten 5-week workshops on a variety of parenting and early literacy topics conducted at grantee's Family Place Library.

**Family Eldercare**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To help underwrite central Texas area Hurricane Katrina related relief activities and services in collaboration with the Austin Area Funders program established through the Austin Community Foundation.

**Forum Comunicacoes Juventude Oratorio**

Dili, East Timor  
(Social Services)

To support various educational and street outreach programs of a children's shelter in the capital of East Timor, focused on protecting children and youth at risk from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**Foundation Communities**

Austin, Texas  
(Economic Development)

Lead gift to establish and operate "Claim + Save" community tax centers throughout Austin, Texas.

**Foundation Communities**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Entrepreneurship)

2005 Silverton Grant recognizing the selection of Executive Director Walter Moreau as the Ernst and Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner.

## **Foundation Communities**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To help underwrite central Texas area Hurricane Katrina related relief activities and services in collaboration with the Austin Area Funders program established through the Austin Community Foundation.

## **Girlstart**

Austin, Texas  
(Lorna Ryan Foundation\Growing Tall Poppies)

To provide 20 scholarships to week long summer camps in math, science, engineering and technology for middle school girls from low income families at the Girlstart Tech Center.

## **Greater Dripping Springs Community Foundation**

Dripping Springs, Texas  
(Social Entrepreneurship)

To support the promotion of philanthropy in Dripping Springs, Texas and the facilitation of charitable giving in support of the Dripping Springs community.

## **Greenlights for Non-Profit Success**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Entrepreneurship)

To fund capacity building for selected Silverton grantees through an “organizational assessment” program.

## **Hackham West Community Centre**

Adelaide, Australia  
(Social Services)

To underwrite the ongoing development and operation of an education program for primary school children suspended from school due to behavioral issues, and the establishment of a playgroup and support group for children of women who are experiencing domestic violence.

## **Hays Community Action Network**

Dripping Springs, Texas  
(Education)

A community resource for educating citizens of Hays County, Texas regarding local government actions and approval processes so that concerned citizens may more fully participate in public affairs which impact the community.

## **International Centre For Eyecare Education**

Dili, East Timor  
(Health)

Silverton Foundation funding in 2005 underwrites the cost of training of nurse practitioners to provide primary eye care services, and equipping of eye care clinics with diagnostic equipment and eyeglasses, to expand eye care service delivery into rural provinces of East Timor.

## **Latina Mami**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To establish and operate grantee's "Platica Project", providing life skills development and peer support to low income Hispanic women in central Texas through education and community organizing.

## **Meals on Wheels and More**

Austin, Texas  
(Education)

Collaborative grant with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation in support of Grantee's "Meals for Kids" program in after school programs conducted at low income public housing facilities.

## **Mobile Loaves & Fishes**

Austin, Texas  
(Health)

In support of emergency disaster relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

### **Open Door Preschool**

Austin, Texas

(Lorna Ryan Foundation\Growing Tall Poppies)

In support of grantee's "Project Helping Hand" for low income working families facing temporary financial hardship.

### **Reading is Fundamental**

Austin, Texas

(Education)

To expand Grantee's "Family Fun Night" family literacy program to all 22 Austin area Head Start Centers.

### **Taylor Public Library**

Taylor, Texas

(Education)

In collaboration with the Tocker Foundation, to help underwrite creation of "Born to Read" initiative for 400 newborns in grantee's service area.

### **Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid**

Austin, Texas

(Social Services)

To help underwrite central Texas area Hurricane Katrina related relief activities and services in collaboration with the Austin Area Funders program established through the Austin Community Foundation.

### **Volunteering SA, Inc.**

Adelaide, Australia

(Social Entrepreneurship)

In support of an innovative community organizing program around recruitment of volunteers for area literacy programs.

### **Waterloo Counseling Center**

Austin, Texas  
(Health)

To expand capacity of counseling program to include services to clients with HIV and other illnesses that can't afford sliding scale payments.

### **Worksource - Greater Austin Workforce Board**

Austin, Texas  
(Social Services)

To help underwrite central Texas area Hurricane Katrina related relief activities and services in collaboration with the Austin Area Funders program established through the Austin Community Foundation.

### **World Vision USA**

Dili, East Timor  
(Economic Development)

In support of Grantee's Youth Office Skills Training Programme conducted in Baucau, East Timor.

### **Youth and Family Alliance, dba Lifeworks**

Austin, Texas  
(Education)

To underwrite the cost of a project to address and overcome the barriers Grantee's GED students face in actually taking the GED exam once they are academically ready.

## **FINANCES**

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(in thousands)	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Assets:	\$14,042	\$13,126
Grants\Programs:	\$ 621	\$ 478

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Foundation awards grants for projects both within and outside the United States. For U.S. based applicants, the Foundation makes grants only to organizations classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. For applicants based outside the United States, the Foundation will make grants when it can make a good faith determination that the organization is the “equivalent” of a U.S. public charity, or when it can exercise appropriate “expenditure responsibility” in connection with the award of the grant.

Foundation grants are limited to initiatives that are highly focused on empowering disadvantaged people in its six program areas. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals or for-profit organizations, nor does it provide grants that are primarily for endowments, capital campaigns, ongoing operating expenses, existing deficits, direct support of individuals, or lobbying of any kind.

The Foundation has no formal application form and no designated deadlines for submission of requests. Letters of inquiry, with a brief description of the project and range of financial support needed, are acceptable for initial contact. More specific information on the Foundation’s application guidelines are available on its website at [www.silvertonfoundation.org](http://www.silvertonfoundation.org).

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