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**MIAMI GRANTMAKERS CELEBRATE 15 YEARS**

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The Golden Age of Philanthropy had not begun when Donors Forum of South Florida opened in 1988 with eight members as Donors Forum of Miami.

Since then, Florida has grown into the country's fifth fastest-growing region for foundation creation. In South Florida alone, the state's fastest-growing philanthropic corner, 669 foundations with more than \$2.14 billion in assets have been developed since 1996.

In total, the foundations range from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, whose \$1.75 billion in assets in 2002 makes it the country's 19th-largest, to many small family foundations.

The new foundations reflect the intergenerational transfer of wealth, estimated to range from \$41 trillion to \$136 trillion by 2052. That's the total money estimated to be passed down from the World War II generation to the next.

In South Florida, the area has benefited from nonprofit hospitals selling to for-profit corporations, which put their assets into foundations; its entrepreneurial base; and sports teams getting involved with the community.

Health Foundation of South Florida (Cedars), Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation (Doctors), North Dade Medical Foundation (Northshore) and Allegany Franciscan Foundation/Miami (St. Francis), all major foundations created since the mid-1990s, have dispersed more than \$30 million to local nonprofit health institutions.

South Florida's entrepreneurial base also has led the philanthropic parade. Take the Green Family Foundation, created by former U.S. Ambassador to Singapore Steven Green, and his wife Dorothea, and now managed by daughter Kimberly. They've helped organize the new e-Equality center near Little Haiti, designed to bridge the digital divide.

Their grant of \$2.5 million to the University of Miami Department of Pediatrics established a five-year program to fund research and medical care of HIV-infected children.

Mark J. Gordon, a local entrepreneur who built Just Jeans into a chain of 40 stores, and then built Precision Response Corp., has developed SHAPE (Students Helping Achieve Philanthropic Excellence), into an independent nonprofit. This year, SHAPE is supporting eight student-led "mini-foundations" in high schools in Miami-Dade and Broward.

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In the sports arena, the Miami Heat established the Miami Heat/Family Outreach Charitable Foundation, supporting programs for underprivileged children, domestic violence prevention and breast health awareness.

While the Florida Marlins won the 2003 World Series, the Florida Marlins Community Foundation has been an ongoing vehicle to support civic and charitable causes.

The transfer of wealth will translate into even more foundations. South Florida's new entrepreneurs, many from Latin America and the Caribbean, are already participating as donors and are expected to create more foundations.

Donors Forum celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with more than 125 members. With their leadership, and with clear evidence of a next wave, South Florida has the philanthropic base to move into its own Platinum Era of Philanthropy.

Jo Anne Chester Bander will step down at year's end as president and CEO of Donors Forum of South Florida, an association of grantmakers.

Caption:

STEPPING DOWN: Jo Anne Chester Bander is ending her role as president and CEO of Donors Forum of South Florida.

photo: Jo Anne Chester Bander (a)

Memo:

THE DEMANDING DONOR; SPECIAL GIVING SECTION

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