

▶ BECKHAM
PHOTOGRAPHED
IN MIAMI
IN APRIL

TIME100

Philanthropy

THESE
ARE THE
100 MOST
INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE
SHAPING THE
FUTURE OF
GIVING

David Beckham

CHAMPION OF CHANGE

BY SEAN GREGORY/FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY NIGHT IN APRIL, DRUMS ARE beating and horns are blaring in a boisterous Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as Lionel Messi and his Inter Miami teammates make a humdrum regular-season American soccer game a happening. Inter Miami and Toronto FC are tied 1-1 in the waning seconds of the contest when Messi drives a ball into the goal box, giving his team a golden chance to pull out the win. His pass lands on the foot of Inter Miami's Fafa Picault, who pops what should be a surefire game winner over the net. A few seconds later, the referee blows the final whistle.

David Beckham, co-owner of Inter Miami, sits still in his box, his face frozen in disbelief. He looks too ticked to move. Finally, he rises to shake a few hands and slap some shoulders. "That was a frustrating game," he says.

"I feel more exhausted watching the team as an owner," says Beckham, whose wife Victoria noted how sweaty he was when he got home and asked what in the world he had been doing. "I'm so invested in the game that I feel that I've played the game."

It has been a dozen years since Beckham retired from professional soccer following a career in which he won six Premier League titles with Manchester United, a La Liga championship with Real Madrid, two Major League Soccer (MLS) Cups with the L.A. Galaxy, and a Ligue 1 championship with Paris Saint-Germain. And having just reached a major milestone—his 50th birthday, on May 2—Beckham admits that he'd love to get back out there. "There's a lot of players that say, 'Oh, well, I miss the locker room. I miss the banter,'" he says. "I don't miss any of that, because I have that with my family and with my friends. I miss training every day.



I miss playing every weekend. Every day, I wake up, and I feel like something's missing. Even at 50 years old, in my head, I can still play."

It's not as if he's let himself go. Beckham, who keeps to a strict fitness regimen, lost his shirt for photos in April's *Men's Health*, and when he and Victoria are in the same place, they work out together almost every morning. "I let Victoria believe that she's working harder," says Beckham. "But I think I'm the one that's working harder. Don't tell her that." ("David does an hour in the gym, and I do an hour and 45 minutes," Victoria says. "So, Sean, I will let you make that decision.") Still, he concedes that although he feels like a 25-year-old in his head, his body cannot do what it did when he was the World Cup captain for England in the aughts.

But don't expect any midlife crises. For one thing, the man does not have time. Beyond co-owning Inter Miami, Beckham has a range of business interests to keep him busy—supplement and eyewear lines, a production company that oversaw the 2023 Emmy-winning Netflix documentary, *Beckham*, and partnerships with brands like Stella Artois and Hugo Boss. And he remains committed to his longtime philanthropic work, particularly with UNICEF, where he is one of the organization's longest-serving goodwill ambassadors.

"The competitive part of it is, I want to see wins," says Beckham. "I want to see these kids walking around with clothing and not be subject to violence in their homes or in their schools or in their communities. Keeping these young kids in education. Keeping them out of early child marriage. When you go into these projects and you see that happening, that's a win."

He's talking about his charitable efforts, but it's really the connective tissue of this all. He may have left the pitch as a player, but his drive to prove himself, to take big swings and see them pay off, persists across his endeavors. As he moves into the next half-century of his life, Beckham is happy to reflect upon his journey but eager to look forward as well. He is well aware that he is one of the 21st century's most famous faces and has a global platform enjoyed by only a select few, many of whom—Messi, Tom Brady, and Tom Cruise, among them—were guests at his lavish birthday parties in London and Miami. And so even as he is content, he refuses to be satisfied. "I truly think," Victoria says, "that he's just scratching the surface of his full potential."

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS BIRTHDAY, Beckham launched a fundraising appeal with UNICEF. "If you, like me, believe that every child should have the chance to achieve their full potential, please click the link in my bio to donate," he wrote in an April post on Instagram, where he has 88 million followers, more than any active English Premier League player. He turned over his social media accounts to a trio of teenage girls from Brazil, Madagascar, and Sudan, who each shared stories of perseverance through roadblocks like war, disease, and lack of educational resources for girls.

BECKHAM'S WORLD



CELEBRATING AFTER SCORING A GOAL DURING THE 2002 FIFA WORLD CUP



ON A 2008 TRIP TO SIERRA LEONE, WHERE HE WAS GETTING A 2-DAY-OLD POLIO VACCINE

While it may not get the same attention as, for instance, his Netflix doc, the making of which, he says, was "like therapy," his relationship with the organization is almost as long as his marriage to Victoria. It began on a trip to Thailand with Manchester United in 2001 when he visited a UNICEF-supported protection center, for women and girls as young as 5 who'd experienced violence and abuse. He knew instantly this was something he wanted to be a part of. He started partnering with UNICEF, and in 2005 received a call from then U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, asking if he'd become an ambassador. "There's a certain phone call that you get that make you quite emotional," says Beckham. "That made me very emotional."

He has since gone on humanitarian trips to places like Sierra Leone, India, and Indonesia to shed light on challenges facing children and families in those countries. He recalls one in particular, in 2014, a few months after Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people. Beckham met with a family impacted by the storm. "The mum was completely glassy-eyed," he says. "It felt like there was no life within her. The father explained what happened: he was on the roof of their home holding both his young daughters when a wave hit and knocked him unconscious. He woke up hours later holding on to just one of his daughters."

In 2015, to mark his 10-year anniversary with UNICEF, Beckham launched his "7" fund—named for his number on his England and Manchester United jerseys—which has since raised more than \$20 million. Among the beneficiaries have been 160,000 adolescents in Nepal who receive education and mental-health

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ODD ANDERSEN—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MARY ALTAFFER—AP; PRESS ASSOCIATION/AP; DAVID TURNLEY—GETTY IMAGES



AT THE U.N. FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN 2019

WITH PRINCE WILLIAM AFTER RAISING MONEY FOR EMERGENCY HELICOPTERS IN 2024



support, some 400,000 children in Djibouti who got the polio vaccine, and 40,000 boys and girls in El Salvador who take part in sports and recreational activity.

"The reason why sport is so powerful is typically that is how men communicate," says Victoria. "But quite often in my experience, and I know in David's experience on the ground, you have women and young girls holding entire communities together. They're somewhat unheard. He sees the power in women and girls."

While his efforts have taken him around the world, he remains involved with organizations in his native

'I TRULY THINK HE'S JUST SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF HIS FULL POTENTIAL.'

—VICTORIA BECKHAM

Britain. He is on the leadership council for the nonprofit Malaria No More UK, and a self-described royalist, he joined Prince William last year in helping to raise north of \$20 million for the London Air Ambulance Service, which used the funds to purchase two lifesaving emergency helicopters.

He's also formed a bond with the monarch himself. During the pandemic, Beckham took up beekeeping at his Oxfordshire country home. This is not news to anyone who saw *Beckham*, which opens with a scene of him in his beekeeping outfit. ("All of a sudden, people laugh," Beckham says, recalling his experience at the premiere in London. "I'm like, 'This is not funny! I even turned around. I was like, 'Why are you all laughing?'"") But

when he attended a British Fashion Council event in 2023, his hobby was less well-known and he held a jar of honey behind his back to present to the King. "I was worried about his secret security wondering, 'What is that?'" he says. The gesture sparked a pleasant conversation, as King Charles III is also a beekeeper, and the King later invited him to his home at Highgrove Gardens, where Beckham observed "most amazing beehive I have ever seen." In 2024, Beckham became an ambassador for the King's Foundation, which offers U.K. students training in areas such as textiles, STEM, and horticulture.

In January, the World Economic Forum gave Beckham a Crystal Award at its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, for his "long-term humanitarian work and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children" around the globe. "He doesn't have to do anything," says UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell. "He's a very famous, wealthy person who could just dillydally around. And he doesn't do that. Does really serious work to help people in the world who most need it. To me, it doesn't get much better than that."

TO BE FAIR, it's hard to imagine Beckham dillydallying around anything. Throughout his career, he's been clear on his course and confident that everyone would see the wisdom of his moves eventually. When he was considering joining the Galaxy from soccer superpower Real Madrid before the 2007 season, he heard ad nauseam that he was making a huge mistake. After all, MLS was an afterthought in the soccer world, not at all established as a topflight league. "When you do get questioned, I like to come out fighting," says Beckham. "I always knew that I could help raise this sport in this country, and hopefully I've done that."

In 2014, he exercised his option to purchase an MLS expansion team for \$25 million, a stipulation in his Galaxy contract. He set his sights on Miami, a city he had never visited before it became his preferred destination for a franchise, only to have politicians reject multiple stadium proposals. He was told by several advisers that he should sell the team back to MLS and earn a small profit for his trouble. But Beckham stuck with his vision, partnering with Jorge and Jose Mas, who run a Miami-based construction and engineering firm and used their political connections to help push through the \$1 billion Miami Freedom Park plan. Jorge is now managing owner of the team, Jose is co-owner, and the mixed-use stadium, which includes Inter Miami's new 25,000-seat home, hotels, offices, a public park, and retail spaces, is expected to open next season. Inter Miami is worth more than \$1 billion.

In the early seasons of Inter Miami's existence, Beckham would stay up well past midnight in London to watch his team, more often than not, lose. "It got to the point where Victoria went, 'Maybe you're the problem. Why don't you try to not sit up and watch one night and just see if you win?'" says Beckham. "I tried it once, and it didn't work. So I was like, 'You're wrong.'" He set out

to change their fortunes, using his own experience moving to the U.S. as a sales pitch to Messi. It was another reminder that it never hurts to aim high. “I could never have dreamed to have Lionel here,” says Beckham. “As an owner, you always say that you want the best players. Does it really happen? No. And he is the best player to have ever played the game.” Messi, even at 37, has exceeded expectations. After his arrival, Inter Miami won the 2023 Leagues Cup—the annual competition between teams from MLS and Liga MX, the top league in Mexico—and the 2024 Supporters’ Shield, awarded annually to the team with MLS’ best regular-season record. Pictures of the team celebrating these accomplishments hang in Beckham’s Inter Miami office.

Though Messi’s contract expires after this season, Beckham is confident that he’ll be back in Miami in 2026, and that he will play in next year’s World Cup. “I think his heart is in Miami now,” says Beckham. “Players these days, they look after themselves more. They’re playing longer. His No. 1 passion is obviously his family. His other passion is football. As long as he’s happy, he will continue to play as long as he wants. It would be nice if he played another 10 years. I can’t see it. But you never know.”

BECKHAM, WHOSE CAREER has had him crisscrossing the world, understands that it’s impossible to know what lies ahead. But that doesn’t stop him from making both plans and predictions. He intends, over the next six months, to have low-key catch-up dinners with

‘HE’S A VERY FAMOUS, WEALTHY PERSON WHO COULD JUST DILLYDALLY AROUND. AND HE DOESN’T DO THAT.’

—CATHERINE RUSSELL, UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

longtime friends in both the U.S. and U.K. He hopes to take a UNICEF trip to Brazil or India sometime this year. “Those are the moments that I love more than anything, going on the ground and meeting these young children,” Beckham says. And laugh if you will about the bees, but sometime in the next few months Beckham has plans to launch Bee Up, a brand of honey-based snacks like gummies, sticks, and bars marketed to the U.S. travel-soccer-kid set.

He’s also looking forward to the 2026 World Cup,

though to be clear, despite putting down roots in the U.S., he’s still cheering for his home team. “I’m sorry,” he says. “I’m going to have to go with England.” And his tracking of what’s happening across the pond is not entirely confined to fandom. While he is highly invested, financially and emotionally, in Inter Miami, he allows that he’s not uninterested in expanding his portfolio. In March, thousands of Manchester United fans marched in protests against the Glazer family, who’ve owned the team over the past two decades. “I’d love to say that I own Manchester United one day,” says Beckham. “It’s always been my team, it will always be my team, and I care deeply about Manchester United.” But the team is valued at around \$6.55 billion, according to *Forbes*, making it the second most valuable soccer franchise on the planet, trailing just Real Madrid. “Slightly out of my price range,” Beckham says.

In the meantime, he does see potential for the Americans at the global level. “The U.S. will win a World Cup at some point,” says Beckham of a country whose best result on the men’s side since 1934 was a quarterfinal appearance in 2002. “This country is too powerful, is too big, has the best facilities, has the best coaches. The foundations have now been set.” Left unsaid is that he can claim some credit for this.

Of course, there are some things that are completely out of Beckham’s hands. Despite his affinity for and connection to the royals, knighthood—to the surprise of many—has thus far eluded him even as his fellow sportsmen Lewis Hamilton and Mo Farah have received the honor. “I’ve heard people in the media talk about it’s something that I really, really want, and of course, it would be an unbelievable honor,” says Beckham, who waited in line for 12 hours to pay his respects to the Queen at her 2022 funeral. “If it happens at some point, amazing. If it doesn’t, there’s nothing I can do about it.”

Beckham got his first gig when he was 12: he was a potboy, clearing drinks off the tables at a dog track. On Saturdays, he’d accompany his dad to his job fixing stoves in London hotels and restaurants, acting as his little helper. He’s always dug working and has no plans to slow down now. “The last 50 years have been pretty enjoyable and pretty hectic and packed with things that I never thought and dreamt that I’d ever be part of,” he says. “I want that to continue. If that stops, that’s when I won’t want to go to work. And that’s never going to happen.”



PLAYING SOCCER WITH CHILD SURVIVORS OF TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 2014



Melinda French Gates

UPLIFTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES

In June 2024, Melinda French Gates left the iconic foundation she started with her former husband Bill, and embarked on her solo philanthropic journey with a bang, giving away about \$502 million in just a year. (While it’s not a competition, it was nearly three times as much as her ex donated that year.)

French Gates’ Pivotal Ventures blends investments, philanthropy, and advocacy, mostly targeted to women, girls, and families, both in the U.S. and internationally. “I believe in using every tool in my toolbox,” she told *TIME* shortly after she left the Gates Foundation. “Whether that’s philanthropic money, whether that’s private money I use for investing in social good or whether it’s money to do political giving.” She announced plans to distribute \$1 billion over two years via Pivotal, including grants to such women as Ava DuVernay, Allyson Felix, and Jacinda Ardern, so they can in turn fund causes they deem worthwhile. —*B.L.L.*
—*Bellinda Luscombe*



Dolly Parton

LONGTIME GIVER

Country-music icon Dolly Parton has been giving almost as long as she has been singing. The musician created the Dollywood Foundation in 1988 to decrease the dropout rate in her childhood home of Sevier County, Tennessee. The foundation supports

initiatives to keep kids in school and make sure they can read. Its signature program, Imagination Library, has sent more than 270 million free, age-appropriate books to children under 5 across the U.S., as well as in Canada, the U.K., Ireland, and Australia.

Parton’s philanthropy, often focused in her home state, is as eclectic as her music. She was a major donor to COVID-19 vaccine research, giving \$1 million to

Vanderbilt University Medical Center in an effort that led to the development of the Moderna vaccine, and has also funded pediatric infectious-disease research at Vanderbilt. Parton received the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy in 2022 in recognition of her generosity, and she shows no signs of changing course: in October 2024, she partnered with the Mountain Ways Foundation to give \$1 million to flood victims affected by Hurricane Helene in East Tennessee. —*Alana Semuels*

Michael & Susan Dell

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Michael and Susan Dell have given away \$2.8 billion via their namesake foundation since its launch in 1999. Focused on education, it reaches an estimated 7 million students, from kindergartners to those in college, every year. —*B.L.L.*

Li Ka-shing

GLOBAL DONOR

At age 96, Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing is still actively giving: last year, he donated \$1.4 million to the University of Cambridge Early Cancer Institute as well as \$15 million to Stanford University for a program to nurture entrepreneurs. —*Charlie Campbell*

Mukesh & Nita Ambani

EMPOWERING MILLIONS

Billionaires Mukesh and Nita Ambani’s Reliance Foundation has funded initiatives affecting millions of Indians, from sustainable agriculture in rural communities to water-conservation projects, scholarships, and school infrastructure. —*Ellen Chang*

Michael Bloomberg

MAKING MED SCHOOL FREE

Michael Bloomberg has so far donated more than \$21 billion to causes ranging from climate education to the arts. Last year he gave \$1 billion to Johns Hopkins University to cover tuition for many medical students. —*Justin Worland*

Carlos Slim Helú

GIVING BIG IN LATIN AMERICA

Business magnate Carlos Slim Helú is the wealthiest person in Mexico and one of its biggest philanthropists. He’s given more than \$4 billion since 2006 to causes from education to health care and road safety and disaster relief. —*E.C.*



K. Lisa Yang

SUPPORTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Students at top U.S. universities may be familiar with the name K. Lisa Yang, which adorns several science centers. The retired investment banker, who donated a total of \$74.5 million last year, has become a major funder of academic research aimed at preserving the planet's ecosystems and helping people who are physically or cognitively disabled.

In February, she gifted Harvard University \$30 million to set up a sister Brain-Body Center to one she established at MIT in 2022. In 2024, she donated \$35 million to endow a wildlife health center at Cornell and \$28 million to launch a research center at MIT—part of a \$200 million, six-center research collective she started there in 2017 with the Center for Autism Research (co-funded with her ex-husband Hock E. Tan). "The things that we're most passionate about are the things that touch our own lives," says Yang, who has two children on the autism spectrum. —*Kerri Anne Renzulli*



Phil Knight & Penny Knight

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

Nike co-founder Phil Knight and his wife Penny are among the most generous donors in the U.S., with estimated lifetime giving of \$3.6 billion—including \$370 million in 2024—often focused on education and community initiatives.

Their donations to academia often have a personal connection. The Knights have donated \$1 billion to the University of Oregon, Phil's alma mater, for an innovation hub

focusing on biomedical research. They have also given more than \$57.5 million to Stanford University, where Phil got his M.B.A.

Elsewhere, the Knights in 2023 pledged \$400 million to the 1,803 Fund, to strengthen the historically Black community in North and Northeast Portland. The nonprofit's initial project centers on Albina, a formerly vibrant business and residential community noted for its music scene that was partially razed to make way for a highway and basketball arena. "I'm pretty proud of what it's done so far," Phil, 87, says of the foundation. "And I'm optimistic about what it will contribute in the future." —*Sean Gregory*



Robert F. Smith

UPLIFTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Finance billionaire Robert F. Smith's best-known act of philanthropy came in 2019 when he made a \$34 million promise during his Morehouse College commencement address to pay off the student debt of that year's 396 graduates. The CEO has continued to center his giving—\$265 million over the past decade—on education, housing, and health care initiatives to lift up communities of color.

Through his Fund II Foundation, he created InternXL, an online platform to connect 30,000 STEM students, mostly of color, with partner companies. Other programs include the Student Freedom Initiative, which offers low-cost loans and other financial assistance to students at historically Black colleges and universities, and grants to reduce disparities in health care outcomes for Black people.

Smith, the first Black person to sign the Giving Pledge, has no plans to change the focus of his giving despite the anti-diversity push in Washington, believing the court-try is better off when everyone is healthier, better educated, and more capable of economic success. He says, "That isn't a race thing, that's a fact thing." —*Steve Fress*



Alice L. Walton

FUNDING ART AND HOLISTIC HEALTH

With an estimated net worth of \$101 billion, Walmart heir Alice L. Walton, 75, is the richest woman in the world. She has historically directed a lot of her giving—\$1.5 billion so far—to the arts,

founding the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Ark., as well as the Art Bridges foundation, which helps regional galleries get access to major American works.

More recently Walton has turned her energy and money toward health care. In May, a new 85,000-sq.-ft. home for the Walton-Home for Heartland Whole Health Institute opened on the Crystal Bridges campus, complete with

art galleries and event spaces as well as wellness services, designed to facilitate connections between art, nature, and health. And from July, the Alice L. Walton School of Medicine, also in Bentonville, will give its first five cohorts of students tuition without fees. Also coming in 2026: a major expansion of the Crystal Bridges Museum, which will increase its capacity by 50%. —*Belinda Luscombe*

Reed Hastings & Patty Quillin

FUNDING EDUCATION

Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings and his wife Patty Quillin focus their giving on education. They've donated to HBCUs and created a research initiative on AI and humanity. —*Alana Semuels*

Oprah Winfrey

GREAT SERVICE

Via her foundation, Oprah Winfrey has given \$500 million, mostly to education. But during crises, she also pitches in as eagerly as she gave out cars on TV, like the \$30 million she sent to Maui after the fires. —*B.L.*

Asha Curran

BOOSTING GENEROSITY

GivingTuesday CEO Asha Curran helped nonprofits across the U.S. raise a record-breaking \$3.6 billion in one day last November, a 16% increase in donations from 2023. More than 36 million people participated globally. —*K.A.R.*

Mackenzie Scott

REWRITING THE RULES

Mackenzie Scott has given \$19 billion to more than 2,400 groups since 2019, usually without being asked and with no strings attached. In January, the Center for Effective Philanthropy called her strategy "transformative." —*B.L.*

Tim Gill & Scott Miller

LGBTQ+ CHAMPIONS

Tim Gill and Scott Miller have been key donors supporting marriage equality and LGBTQ+ causes in the U.S., including funding litigation. It can feel slow, but Gill says, "We will make incremental progress toward a freer and more fair world." —*Peter Carbonara*

Ken Griffin

MAKING AN IMPACT

Investor Ken Griffin's approach to philanthropy has a lot in common with his strategy at his hedge fund Citadel: both are focused on evidence-based initiatives with the potential to deliver high-impact, scalable results. "I want to be seen first and foremost as a person who supports problem solvers," he says.

Griffin, whose lifetime giving exceeds \$2 billion, donated \$400 million in 2023, in combination with the David Geffen Foundation, to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, to drive state-of-the-art cancer care, and \$50 million last year to advance neurological care at Baptist Health South Florida. Other recent donations include \$20 million to Miami Dade College for scholarships and \$15 million to the National Constitution Center. —*Ellen Chang*

Jacob Pruitt

GIANT GRANTMAKER

Fidelity Charitable president Jacob Pruitt leads the nation's largest donor-advised fund and the biggest grantmaker. Last year it made 2.7 million grants, from disaster relief to education, totaling nearly \$1.5 billion, up 25% from 2023. —*P.C.*

Steve & Connie Ballmer

WILDFIRE RELIEF

Los Angeles was still smoldering on Jan. 30 when Steve and Connie Ballmer hosted FireAid, a concert of A-list stars, raising about \$100 million for wildfire relief, including a matching donation by the Ballmers. —*S.F.*

Azim Premji

IMPROVING EDUCATION

Tech magnate Azim Premji has directed his wealth to systematically improving public education in India with grants to nonprofits, direct teacher training, and policy advocacy shaping the national curriculum. —*Tharin Pillay*

Warren Buffett

RESHAPING PHILANTHROPY

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett, 94, plans to donate more than 99% of his wealth, which is valued around \$150 billion, during his lifetime or upon his death. He has long focused his giving on education, agriculture, and antipoverty programs. —*A.S.*



LORENZ CO-FOUNDED THE GIVING PLEDGE NEXT GEN IN 2014

To help, the Next Gen group offers in-person training sessions, WhatsApp chats, and access to consultants who can offer advice about ways to divide donation pools that allow disagreeing heirs to fund different charities. Last year, for the first time, the Next Gen group also attended the Giving Pledgers' annual meeting. Such big multigenerational gatherings are helpful, says Lorenz, who previously served as a senior adviser for the National Center for Family Philanthropy and deputy director of the Institute for Philanthropy. "When you hear from other families what's worked for them or what hasn't worked, you get ideas," she says.

Lorenz knows firsthand how challenging—and rewarding—inheriting the responsibility for fulfilling a pledge can be. She was steeped in her grandfather's concerns about improving sustainability—Mitchell made his fortune by pioneering the shale-gas extraction method commonly known as fracking—and leaving a legacy for the greater good. He was also deeply concerned about energy and environmental conservation. She recalls, "Every time you saw him, he'd say, 'If you can't make the world work with 4 billion people, how are you going to make it work with 10 billion people?' What are you going to do about it?"

Yet she also believes the Next Gen has to figure out how to forge their own giving path. Newbie philanthropists

Katherine Lorenz

LEADING NEXT-GEN HEIRS

BEING AN HEIR TO A BILLION-DOLLAR FORTUNE CERTAINLY has its benefits. It can also come with big challenges, from the intricacies of figuring out how best to carry out a loved one's legacy to the infighting that can sometimes boil over in families when great wealth is passed down. Katherine Lorenz, granddaughter of Texas oilman George P. Mitchell, knows the terrain—and she's dedicated to helping her fellow heirs navigate it.

Lorenz is the leader of the Giving Pledge Next Generation group, the heirs of the ultra-wealthy philanthropists who formally promised to donate the majority of their wealth to charitable causes in their lifetimes or their wills. Lorenz co-founded the group in 2014 with 24 members. It now has 300, ranging in age from 21 to 75, as the press of the challenges they're likely to face becomes more urgent. Dozens of the nearly 250 billionaires who signed the Giving Pledge have died before wrapping up their giving plans. And about 50 of the remaining Pledgers are over age 80.

Her goal is to provide heirs with resources to help them establish decisionmaking processes, reduce family arguments, and deal with emotionally fraught questions like how strictly they need to adhere to their loved one's giving strategies vs. their own ideas about how and where they can do the most good. Lorenz, who is president of the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, the nonprofit that her grandparents established in 1978, says, "Carrying out someone else's legacy is not easy."

Lin-Manuel Miranda

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

While Latinos make up 19% of the U.S. population and 24% of movie-ticket buyers, they have fewer than 5% of film-industry roles. *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and his family are out to change that. Collectively, a new initiative from their Miranda Family Fund, in partnership with Tribeca Studios and the Hispanic Federation, will provide three emerging Latino filmmakers with funding and mentorship; the resulting short films will premiere at the Tribeca Festival in June. Each film team will also include participants from the Miranda Family Fellows program, which offers scholarships, training, and mentoring to people from underrepresented communities working in theater, TV, and film. For the Mirandas, philanthropy is a family affair, with mom, psychologist Luz Towns-Miranda, and dad, community activist Luis A. Miranda Jr., involved, along with their children and the siblings' spouses. "All says Miranda: "All of our philanthropy is rooted in giving underrepresented groups a chance to make art and get in the door without the barriers that so often leave us out." —Diane Harris



Christy Turlington Burns

IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH CARE

For the past 15 years, Christy Turlington Burns has been on a mission to make sure women have access to the kind of medical care that saved her life when she experienced postpartum complications.

Her nonprofit Every Mother Counts (EMC) has provided support to nearly 2 million women, families, and health care workers and invested \$48 million in community-led programs, advocacy, and awareness. EMC is fundraising for its Endurance Fund, which will provide ongoing support to community-based organizations, provide emergency grants to areas affected by crisis, and finance continued care for women in marginalized communities. "Our investments are small on the scale of what's needed, but they point to what works," she says. "There are very few global challenges that aren't intractable, but this one is solvable." —Sandra Block

Nick Allardice

MOBILIZING MOON SHOTS

Nick Allardice is CEO of GiveDirectly, which provides unconditional cash to people living in extreme poverty, and is making big bets testing new programs. "The world needs more moon shots," he says. —Kerri Anne Renzulli

Stephen & Ayesha Curry

SERVING STUDENTS

Last August, basketball champion Stephen Curry and his wife, entrepreneur Ayesha Curry, pledged \$25 million to narrow the literacy gap in Oakland, Calif.'s underserved communities through small-group tutoring. —Sean Gregory

Petra Nemcova

REBUILDING POST-DISASTER

Supermodel Petra Nemcova's nonprofit works to accelerate the rebuilding of safe schools and homes after natural disasters, from the L.A. wildfires to hurricanes, and supports Ukrainian refugee children. —Harry Booth

Richard Curtis & Lenny Henry

HARNESSING LAUGHTER

After witnessing firsthand the devastation of famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s, British screenwriter and producer Richard Curtis returned home with an idea to use comedy to raise funds to help those in need. Fronted by beloved British comedian Lenny Henry and other famous faces, it became Comic Relief, known for its Red Nose Day fundraiser and annual telethons. "I think it is really important in terms of citizenship, that we know when it's our turn to do something, and we have the energy and the wherewithal to do it." —Ayesha Javed

History campaign in 2004. That gamble has paid off. Comic Relief has raised over \$2 billion for charity projects tackling poverty and injustice, supporting more than 100 million people globally.

To date, the nonprofit's state-side arm, Comic Relief U.S., has raised more than \$436 million. Earlier this year, Comic Relief's 40th, Curtis and Henry were honored with a Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Catalyst Award.

Henry credits the success of Comic Relief to its ability to appeal to the public's will to do "the right thing." He says, "I think it is really important in terms of citizenship, that we know when it's our turn to do something, and we have the energy and the wherewithal to do it." —Ayesha Javed

LORENZ: BENJAMIN NORMAN—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDX; TURLINGTON: PAOLA KUDACH—TRUNK ARCHIVE; MIRANDA: COREY NICKOLS—GETTY IMAGES

Billie Jean King

CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN SPORTS

How much impact can you have with a \$5,000 donation? If you're tennis legend Billie Jean King, quite a lot.

That's how much King gifted in seed money in 1974 to launch the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF), which has since channeled over \$100 million into creating opportunities for women in sports through research and grants to individual athletes and nonprofits. That initial gift reflected King's trademark fusion of activism and savvy institution-building, honed during a pivotal year in 1973 when she co-founded the Women's Tennis Association, successfully lobbied the U.S. Open to become the first major tournament to offer equal prize money, and beat Bobby Riggs in the historic "Battle of the Sexes" match.

In the ensuing five decades, she's remained dedicated to advocacy for equality in sports and



to philanthropy that supports the power of sports to transform lives and foster social change. Her Billie Jean King Foundation provides grants to the WSF, where she is honorary chair, as well as awards for young sports leaders.

—Harry Booth

Celebrating WSF's 50th anniversary in October, King said, "We must all remain committed to protecting the progress made, while working toward a future where the playing field is truly level."



Patrick Collison

BOOSTING RESEARCH

"May the wind be always at your back" is the Irish blessing for a swift journey. It evidently worked for billionaire Stripe co-founder Patrick Collison, who started out as a schoolboy entrepreneur in 2007 at 18.

Speed is also the byword for Collison's approach to philanthropy. In 2020 he co-launched Fast Grants, a rapid-funding system for scientists researching solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic, and

—Jackie Hunter

in 2021 he was a founding donor of the nonprofit Arc Institute, launched with an initial endowment of \$650 million. It aims to expedite scientific research into complex diseases by providing multiyear funding.

In January, Arc announced a partnership with Nvidia to fast-track scientific research by developing and publicly sharing powerful computational tools that advance biomedical discovery—

including its recently launched open-source model, EVO 2, which combines AI and biology to help uncover potentially lifesaving targeted therapies. The goal: "to accelerate scientific progress, understand the root causes of disease, and narrow the gap between discoveries and

impact on patients."

Eric Church

AIDING HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY

Country star Eric Church spends about half of his year in Avery County, North Carolina, a rural, mountainous, and low-income area of his home state. But last September, Hurricane Helene devastated the area.

To support his community, Church mobilized his influence and fan base, organizing Concert for Carolina with fellow country star Luke Combs, which raised over \$24.5 million.

Church also expedited the release of his single "Darkest Hour," donating all royalties to those impacted by Helene.

Half of the show's proceeds went to Church's nonprofit, Chief Cares. Church and his team decided to buy \$850,000 worth of land in Avery County, to build around 45 homes in an effort to provide affordable housing for families, who are expected to move in by late summer. After three years, they will be given the opportunity to buy their homes with financial support from Church's nonprofit.

While it's not uncommon to relocate after a disaster, Church believes local people, "who are going to continue the values and have pride in that community," are the strongest asset for recovery. "We're giving people a chance to have a permanent home that they can live in for the rest of their lives, and keep them in the community," he says.

—Andrew R. Chow



CHURCH: AMY HARRIS; COLLISON: PHILIP FARON; BENJAMIN: WIRESS/GETTY IMAGES; CHURCH: ANDREW R. CHOW

Strive & Tsitsi Masiyiwa

HELPING AFRICANS THRIVE

Econet founder Strive Masiyiwa and his wife Tsitsi, a social entrepreneur, have devoted much of their estimated \$1.2 billion fortune to empowering Africa's people.

Their HigherLife Foundation was created to give educational support to orphans from their native Zimbabwe. It now focuses on education, health, disaster relief, and rural entrepreneurship to help communities across Africa thrive. It's provided over 250,000 scholarships and trainings and invested \$100 million in job creation and \$60 million in health care and crisis response.

In May, Tsitsi announced their nonprofit Delta Philanthropies was a founding donor in a \$600 million fund to improve newborn and maternal health on the continent.

—Tharlin Pillay

Yousriya Loza-Sawiris

PATHS FROM POVERTY

Yousriya Loza-Sawiris, matriarch of one of Egypt's wealthiest families, has spent over 40 years leveraging her family's power and influence to create pathways out of poverty for marginalized Egyptians.

—T.P.

Byron & Tina Trott

COLLEGEFOR RURAL KIDS

Byron and Tina Trott have helped 80,000 rural students pursue college and other postsecondary school paths. And they're looking to expand: in 2024 they pledged to donate an additional \$130 million over the next decade.

—S.B.

Jeff Atwood

GIVING WITH URGENCY

In January, tech entrepreneur Jeff Atwood committed to giving away half of his wealth in the next five years. He's started with a bang, donating \$1 million each to eight nonprofits, including support for veterans and children in poverty.

—Sandra Block

María José Iturralde

SAVING THE AMAZON

María José Iturralde leads Fundación Pachayana, an Ecuadorian nonprofit that partners with Indigenous communities to restore the rainforest, including paying locals to be stewards of the land.

—H.B.



Marlene Engelhorn

GIVING WEALTH AWAY

What do you do when you inherit millions but don't believe you deserve the money? Austrian heiress Marlene Engelhorn tore up the ultra-rich playbook and let a group of strangers decide, Engelhorn received millions after her grandmother's death in 2022 in Austria, where there is no inheritance tax, reinforcing her view that unearned wealth undermines democracy.

Last year, she invited a group to relocate after a disaster, Church believes local people, "who are going to continue the values and have pride in that community," are the strongest asset for recovery.

"We're giving people a chance to have a permanent home that they can live in for the rest of their lives, and keep them in the community," he says.

Susan Fales-Hill

DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS

TV writer-producer Susan Fales-Hill is a prodigious fundraiser, pushing American Ballet Theatre to foster new talent in diverse communities. "It's all about reinforcing our common humanity," she says.

—Steve Fries

Michele Kang

UPLIFTING WOMEN

Michele Kang is a leading investor in women's sports, pledging \$55 million to U.S. Soccer "a future where women's sports are fully resourced, celebrated, and respected."

—Sean Gregory

Nikhil Kamath

SHARING HIS WEALTH

Billionaire Nikhil Kamath has donated millions to environmental and educational projects. His Young India Philanthropic Pledge asks wealthy Indians under 45 to give away at least 25% of their wealth.

—Kim Clark

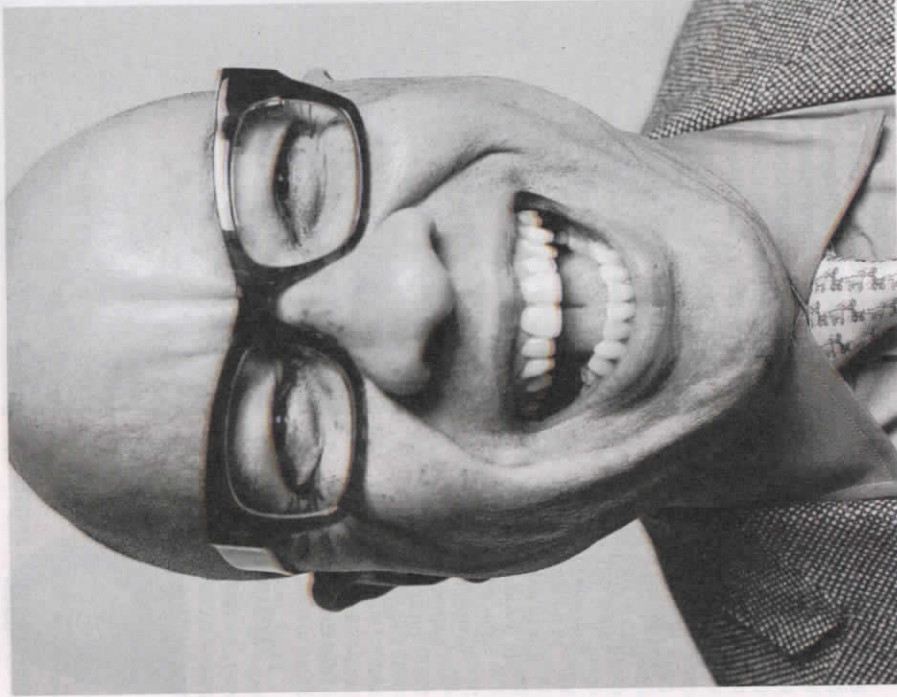
Tiffany Benjamin

FOCUSING GIVING

Last fall, the Humana Foundation donated \$15.2 million to nonprofits working to improve the emotional health and nutrition of seniors and children. The grants were part of CEO Tiffany Benjamin's larger vision to eliminate barriers in health care—an approach that garnered her the 2024 Council on Foundations award for outstanding leadership in corporate philanthropy.

Since taking over in 2022, Benjamin has reined in the foundation's once scattered giving strategy to concentrate on mental health, food scarcity, and novel health interventions for chronic conditions. Disaster relief is also a priority: in the past year, the foundation sent \$1.5 million in aid for recovery efforts after Hurricanes Milton and Helene, plus an additional \$250,000 to help flood victims in Kentucky. She says, "My favorite thing is when we invest in an organization at a tricky time and they tell us: Because of your investment, we were able to do this amazing, big thing."

—Kerri Anne Renzulli



WALKER LEADS THE \$16 BILLION FORD FOUNDATION, FOUNDED BY HENRY FORD IN 1936

Under his direction, the \$16 billion foundation, among the nation's wealthiest, turned its attention sharply to issues of social justice and inequality, including boosting educational opportunities and civil rights for people of color and those with disabilities—he established the first disability-rights program by a major foundation. In 2014, he chaired the committee to lead Detroit out of bankruptcy, corralling automakers, unions, and other stakeholders to strike an \$816 million “Grand Bargain”—Ford contributed \$125 million—to pay off the city’s debt without jeopardizing the pensions of local-government workers or selling off the city’s art-museum collection.

This can-do instinct comes, he says, from his own rise from poverty in rural Texas to work first as a lawyer, then an international investor, and for the past quarter-century in nonprofits. In 2006, he became vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Seven years later, he took over Ford, becoming the first out gay Black man to lead a multibillion-dollar U.S. philanthropy. Walker is often the one others turn to for advice and perspective; he believes that’s partly because he’s one of the few who know what it’s like to be poor or marginalized. “My experience and my background are unusual,” he says. “I tend to see the world through a lens of abundance and not limitations.”

While he’s often lauded for his groundbreaking yet collaborative approach—winning the Council on Foundations Award for Distinguished Service in 2024—Walker regards his own record as “mixed” largely because, in focusing so heavily on poverty and diversity, he worries he failed to notice an important national shift. “These last few years, we’ve seen inequality impacting working-class white Americans who were not a demographic that was a priority for philanthropy because for most of the 20th century, they were doing better,” he says. “Now we’re seeing white households with indicators of poor well-being, downward mobility, and lower life expectancy. We need to pay attention to that.”

It’s one of the reasons he decided to step down—so a new leader can look at the Ford Foundation’s mission with new eyes. But Walker, whose longtime partner died in 2019, also wants to look at his own life anew.

His parting advice to fellow heads of philanthropies? “It’s easy to convince yourself that you’re a success when you’re a foundation president because people tell you you’re doing a good job all the time,” Walker says. “Don’t believe that. We need to assess ourselves with some humility.” —STEVE FRIESS

‘PHILANTHROPY SHOULD BE DOING THE BOLD, RISK-TAKING WORK.’

—DARREN WALKER, FORD FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Christos Christou

HUMANITARIAN CARE

Even for an organization that works in places others are fleeing, Dr. Christos Christou’s time as international president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been tumultuous. During his tenure, which will end in

September, he has supported medical teams providing aid amid wars in Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, and also in Myanmar, where a 7.7-magnitude earthquake in March killed thousands.

The situation in Gaza has been particularly fraught. Eleven MSF workers have been killed since the war began, says the former field surgeon, who visited the West Bank in November 2023 to meet

staff. All told, since the conflict began on Oct. 7, 2023, MSF has provided nearly 700,000 outpatient and 188,000 emergency-room consultations in Gaza, and performed nearly 20,000 surgeries.

He’s most proud of standing with communities that lost everything. “We didn’t leave them alone,” he says. “We gave people hope, which they needed more than anything.” —Jackie Hunter



Maribel Pérez Wadsworth

SUPPORTING LOCAL NEWS

Local newsrooms are vanishing at a rate of more than two a week, leaving around 55 million Americans in news deserts with limited access to essential information. The Knight Foundation is out to reverse that trend through its support of journalism.

Leading the charge is its president and CEO, Maribel Pérez Wadsworth. Under her direction, the foundation last year doubled its pledge

to Press Forward, a national coalition to bolster local news, to \$300 million over five years. In July, the foundation gave a timely \$6.9 million infusion to strengthen non-partisan election coverage in pivotal states—reflecting Wadsworth’s belief that philanthropy must “move at the speed of news.” In February, Knight added \$25 million to an initial grant of \$20 million for the American Journalism Project, which supports nonprofit local news.

Many of the challenges we face come down to a “lack of connection and engagement” with our fellow citizens, Wadsworth says. “Local journalism is in particular a grounding element. It is an anchor that helps communities to be strong and connected.” —Harry Booth

IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE PANDEMIC, Ford Foundation president Darren Walker came up with a radical idea. With interest rates near zero and stocks tanking, he posited major philanthropies should issue 50-year bonds to raise money for COVID-19 relief. It would save them from having to sell assets at the low values of the time. “It was an arbitrage play, really,” he says.

Ford’s “social bond,” the first in U.S. nonprofit history, raised \$1 billion to buck up hundreds of nonprofit grantees during the unprecedented crisis. He lobbied 14 other large groups to also issue bonds, but only four joined in. “Too many operate from a culture of no as opposed to asking, How do I get to yes?” Walker says. “I believe philanthropy should be doing the bold, risk-taking work that the government or private sector isn’t willing to or cannot do.” After seeing how successful the social bonds were, some leaders who had initially refused issued them too.

Walker, who will step down from Ford at the end of 2025 after 12 years, has been a transformative figure.

Darren Walker

DRIVING TRANSFORMATION

Jack Ma

LIFTING LEADERS

Alibaba founder Jack Ma’s foundation focuses on education, entrepreneurship, environmental protection, and women’s leadership from global to local: In January, Ma marked the 10th year of providing 100 outstanding rural schoolteachers in China with funding and training. —Charlie Campbell

Lisa Sobrato Sonsini

FAMILY GIVING

Lisa Sobrato Sonsini started her family’s foundation in 1996 with a focus on sustainability and income inequality. This year Sobrato Philanthropies is making its largest financial commitment yet, putting more than 25% of its \$1 billion in assets into a range of projects. —Penelope Wang

Marco Dunand & Suzan Craig Dunand

BOLD CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Marco Dunand and Suzan Craig Dunand signed the Giving Pledge in 2024, furthering their work to address biodiversity loss and climate change. “There’s no other more important issue,” Marco says. —Kerri Anne Renzulli

Celina de Sola

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Celina de Sola, co-founder and president of Glasswing International, aims to reduce poverty and violence in Latin America, with a focus on public education, mental health, (including training more than 45,000 frontline workers), and empowering communities. —P.W.

John Palfrey

FILLING THE FUNDING GAP

Amid federal funding cuts this spring, John Palfrey, president of the \$8 billion John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, bumped up its giving by \$80 million for the next two years. It typically disburses \$400 million a year to a range of causes that aid underserved communities. —S.F.

Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair

FUNDING EDUCATION

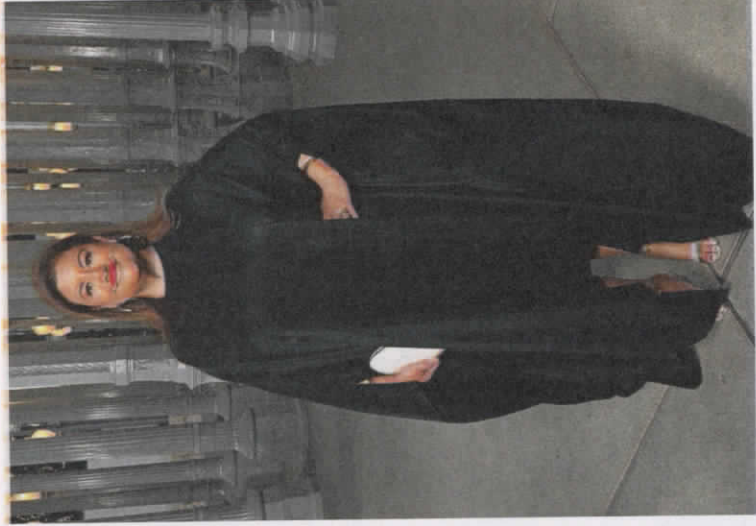
Philanthropy is a family tradition for Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, chair of Mashreq Bank. He also leads the foundation his father set up to provide educational opportunities for Arab and Emirati youth, which has helped more than 230,000 young people. —Tharin Pillay

Elizabeth Alexander

PROMOTING THE ARTS, AND DIVERSITY

Few people have championed diversity, or culture, on as significant a scale as Elizabeth Alexander, president of the \$7.9 billion Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—the largest funder of the arts and humanities in the U.S. So how does she feel about the widespread rollback of the kind of diversity initiatives she's been championing? "Absolutely laser-focused," she says.

In April, after the Trump Administration deemed much of the funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities wasteful, Mellon stepped in. "We had grantees calling us, panicked," says Alexander. "We made a \$15 million grant to the Federation of State Humanities Councils... so that these projects for now



she says, is the goal. "As much as this is a challenging time, it's actually a very powerful time in philanthropy, because people are coming together."

—Belinda Luscombe

La June Montgomery Tabron

FINDING NEW WAYS TO SERVE

In 2023, almost a decade into her tenure as president and CEO of the \$9.4 billion W.K. Kellogg Foundation, La June Montgomery Tabron commissioned a yearlong listening tour with its more than 2,000 grantees. Not content to keep doing what she'd been doing, she wanted ideas about how the philanthropy could have a greater long-term impact on children by imagining what the world would be like in 2035.

The report, published in April 2024, is heavy on suggestions to address systemic racism, climate change, housing affordability, and gender-based violence, and Montgomery Tabron's enthusiasm for many of them reflects her ongoing pursuit of new ways to be of service. Her dedication to these issues is also reflected in two books she published this year—a memoir, *How We Heal*, and a children's book, *Our Differences Make Us Stronger*.

More than half of Kellogg grants now go to groups led by people of color, and her larger goal, she says, is to level the playing field for all children as early as possible. "We didn't start out with a quota," she said on a podcast in January. "We started out in earnest saying, 'Who do we need to lift up to sustain the changes that we want to achieve?'" —Steve Fress



Mark Suzman

A BOLD PLEDGE

In May, the Gates Foundation, led by CEO Mark Suzman, unveiled its audacious endgame: spend its whole \$200 billion endowment over the next 20 years, then close its doors for good.

This empty-tank strategy, says Suzman, offers a real shot at a legacy that would long outlive the organization: eradicating a handful of the world's deadliest diseases. "We hope there are some things we will have literally solved," he says.

The foundation, with its partners, has already helped push polio to the brink of annihilation, reducing cases by 99.9%. Future successes, Suzman says, will depend on new innovations, from vaccines to AI—and wealthy nations continuing to support lifesaving programs abroad.

"We cannot possibly make up the slack of the government cuts," Suzman says. He hopes the big pledge and bold vision will help draw governments back into the fold. "Success is not only possible. It has happened in the past, and it can happen in the future."

—Harry Booth

Artis Stevens

YOUTH MENTORING

When Artis Stevens became president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) in 2020, his top goal was to reduce the 120-year-old mentoring organization's 30,000-long wait list of kids looking for a "big."

Through smart partnerships with organizations like the NFL, investment in improved tech, and better outreach to its 20 million alumni, he has cut the wait list by a third, reversed 10 years of declining membership, and helped the nonprofit double its funding.

Stevens is now expanding to enroll an additional 30,000 teens and young adults in its workplace mentoring program, where they'll get career training, connect with industry leaders, and find internships. "We work with 300-plus companies across the country and are the largest youth workplace mentorship program in the U.S.," he says.

BBBSA also embeds paid mentors in middle schools to help teachers address absenteeism and behavioral issues. It plans to expand the program to high schools and the juvenile-justice and foster-care systems, after a study it conducted with Harvard and the Treasury Department showed that mentees are 20% more likely to attend college and earn 15% more in their early professional years. "Mentorship has long-term impacts, not just for young people, but our society and economy," Stevens says.

—Kerri Anne Renzulli



José Andrés

HUMANITARIAN CHEF

Fifteen years ago, chef José Andrés founded World Central Kitchen (WCK), a nonprofit that has since served more than 450 million meals in disaster areas and war zones. In 2023, he added the Longer Tables Fund to his philanthropic portfolio; its initiatives include an institute that studies solutions to fix the world's food supply.

But Andrés is still reeling from the events of April 1, 2024, when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

struck a convoy in Gaza, killing seven WCK workers. While the IDF took responsibility, a March report by news service Devex called WCK's safety measures into question. "We have systems, and we have protocols," says Andrés. "We're not going to change the world without taking some risk. Many years ago, I decided I'm not going to watch people suffering from the comfort of my own home. What happened that day is something that will follow me the rest of my life." He remains committed to responding to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where WCK is delivering thousands of gallons of water a day to distribution points.

—Sean Gregory

N. Clay Robbins

A SURGE IN GIVING

Giving at Lilly Endowment, led by chair and CEO N. Clay Robbins, has gone into overdrive. In 2024, the foundation awarded a stunning string of grants totaling more than \$2.5 billion—a fivefold jump from 2018, focused mainly on public works projects and education. —S.F.

Cecilia Conrad

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Cecilia Conrad's Lever for Change connects donors with organizations through open-call funding competitions. To date it's helped guide \$2.5 billion to more than 500 charities, advising major donors like MacKenzie Scott and Reid Hoffman. —Kim Clark

William C. Rudin

BIG APPLE BOOSTER

William C. Rudin leads the family real estate business and continues a tradition of donations to health, education, social services, and the arts to improve life in the Big Apple, from sponsoring the marathon to funding hundreds of New York City nonprofits. —Penelope Wang

Alex Soros

STEERING A BEHEMOTH

In 2022 Alex Soros took over his father's giant philanthropy, the Open Society Foundations, which disbursed \$1.7 billion in 2023. He plans to continue funding good-governance groups, pro-democracy campaigns, and human rights, and add new initiatives on the environment. —Philip Elliott

Josh & Marjorie Harris

TEAM PLAYERS

Investor Josh Harris and his wife Marjorie are some of the largest supporters of after-school sports in the U.S. But through Harris Philanthropies they fund much more, including grants to aid diversity in medicine and tackle health inequalities. —Natalie Donback

Sylvan Adams

ONE OF ISRAEL'S BIGGEST DONORS

For the past nine years, real estate mogul Sylvan Adams has given at least \$100 million a year to Israel and elsewhere to support education, sports facilities, the elderly, and health care. He bases his giving on *tikkun olam*, meaning "repairing the world" in Hebrew. —Ellen Chang

Reeta Roy

FULFILLING WORK

Mastercard Foundation president and CEO Reeta Roy wants to expand access to education and foster financial inclusion. She's eight years into a foundation that focuses on fostering connection, particularly among the LGBTQ+ community. It supports art groups and training programs for civic leaders. —K.A.R.

Allison Sesso

ALLEVIATING DEBT

Allison Sesso leads Undue Medical Debt, a nonprofit that buys and forgives medical debt, taking \$15 billion off the backs of over 9 million individuals by the start of 2025. It has partnered with states on debt-relief programs, bought debt directly from hospitals, and worked with debt collectors. —K.A.R.

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David Bohnett

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

When David Bohnett sold his tech company in 1999, he put much of his nearly \$300 million in profit into a foundation that focuses on fostering connection, particularly among the LGBTQ+ community. It supports art groups and training programs for civic leaders. —K.A.R.



LEE FOUNDED THE ASIAN WOMEN GIVING CIRCLE 20 YEARS AGO

pooling resources are organized and run by women. Women were often traditionally excluded from the more formal ways of banking. These cultural forms of generosity, while not philanthropic in origin, lend themselves naturally to being turned into philanthropic forms.

Is there a political aspect to the giving-circle movement? Where I land is civic engagement. Giving circles are a great vehicle for people to practice being civically engaged. And if there was ever a time when we really need to do that in this country, and maybe even globally, it's now. Civic engagement just means being curious and interested in what's happening in my community and then caring enough to get educated, then taking one more step with a group of friends, neighbors, or colleagues to take action together.

Hali Lee

COLLECTIVE-GIVING LEADER

TO HALI LEE, THE FUTURE OF PHILANTHROPY LIES IN collective giving. That's what the philanthropy consultant contends in her new book, *The Big We: How Giving Circles Unlock Generosity, Strengthen Community, and Make Change*. Social change, she says, can start with people, often women, gathered around kitchen tables, pooling their resources to donate whatever they can afford to local organizations like soup kitchens and libraries. "Everybody's got a kitchen table," she says.

The movement seems to be taking off. From 2017 to 2023, one study found, nearly 4,000 collective-giving circles in the U.S. donated \$3.1 billion to charity.

Lee has been doing her part. She started the Asian Women Giving Circle 20 years ago, which has made more than \$1 million in small grants to support cultural projects by people of Asian American and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island ancestry. She also helped launch Philanthropy Together, a group scaling collective giving.

Bigger change can follow from small-dollar donors coming together, Lee believes. While "Big Phil" certainly does good, she says, "billionaires don't have any incentive to change the systems that made them rich."

Why is the giving-circle movement so heavily female? I'm Korean American, and in my culture there is something called a *geh*, a shared-giving circle. You might have heard of *tandas* [in Mexico], or *sou sou*s [in West Africa]. Indonesians call it *arisans*. A lot of these cultural forms of

organizations it recommends, a decade after its founding. In 2021, Singer, a professor emeritus of bioethics at Princeton, won the Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture, and donated the \$1 million he received to high-impact nonprofits.

"I'm happy that I'm still around, having some influence, and I hope to have some years to expand that influence," says Singer, who is 78. "That seems to me to be the best thing I can do with the remaining time that I have."

Less than 2% of philanthropic funds are dedicated to groups that focus on women and girls. Women Moving Millions CEO Sarah Haacke Byrd wants to change that. Since 2007, WMM members have donated more than \$1 billion to nonprofits with that focus.

Peter Singer

A PHILOSOPHER OF GIVING

Through clear-eyed arguments and ceaseless advocacy, Australian philosopher Peter Singer has revolutionized modern philanthropy—twice.

His 1972 essay "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," which argued that people ought to prevent suffering from death and poverty when they can do so without sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, has long influenced giving strategies for wealthy donors and laid the foundation for the effective-altruism movement. Meanwhile, his 1975 book *Animal Liberation* helped launch the modern animal-welfare movement.

Last year, his charity, The Life You Can Save, which researches nonprofits fighting extreme poverty, passed the \$100 million mark in donations to the



Economist Tyler Cowen's Emergent Ventures funds entrepreneurs working on highly scalable ideas for meaningfully improving society. Emergent Ventures' successes have included funding one of the first COVID-19 saliva tests via its Fast Grants program. —T.P.

Investor Robert Rosenkranz calls himself a selfish philanthropist. Ambition led him to his best-known philanthropic endeavor: Open to Debate. He's also founding a cultural institution in New York City and funding research on aging and longevity. —Kerri Anne Renzulli

Prince William & Catherine, Princess of Wales

MODERNIZING ROYAL GIVING

Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, focus on homelessness and mental health with their Royal Foundation and spotlight climate solutions through the Earthshot Prize. —H.B.

Badr Jafar

STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY

In 2020, Badr Jafar, who is a champion of strategic philanthropy, launched Hasanaah, a digital platform for Islamic giving that hosts high-impact projects with \$95 million in total fundraising goals. In September he was appointed the UAE's special envoy for business and philanthropy. —H.B.

Sarah Haacke Byrd

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Less than 2% of philanthropic funds are dedicated to groups that focus on women and girls. Women Moving Millions CEO Sarah Haacke Byrd wants to change that. Since 2007, WMM members have donated more than \$1 billion to nonprofits with that focus. —Sandra Block

Tyler Cowen

FAST-TRACK FUNDING

Economist Tyler Cowen's Emergent Ventures funds entrepreneurs working on highly scalable ideas for meaningfully improving society. Emergent Ventures' successes have included funding one of the first COVID-19 saliva tests via its Fast Grants program. —T.P.

Robert Rosenkranz

A "SELFISH PHILANTHROPIST"

Investor Robert Rosenkranz calls himself a selfish philanthropist. Ambition led him to his best-known philanthropic endeavor: Open to Debate. He's also founding a cultural institution in New York City and funding research on aging and longevity. —Kerri Anne Renzulli

Pierre & Pam Omidyar

NETWORK BUILDERS

Pierre and Pam Omidyar have given over \$4 billion to humanitarian and civic causes, creating a network of institutions, and helped establish a public-private partnership to ensure AI serves public interests. —T.P.

Mariska Hargitay

ADVOCATE FOR SURVIVORS

For millions of viewers, Mariska Hargitay is Olivia Benson, the tough but compassionate NYPD captain tackling crimes on *Law & Order: SVU*. Away from the cameras, she channels that same fierce dedication into her real-world role as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault.

Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation focuses on changing how society responds to survivors of sexual violence, and child abuse. Since 2010, it has prioritized tackling the vast

backlog of untested rape kits in the U.S.—crucial DNA evidence that is often left unprocessed. The foundation has identified tens of thousands of untested kits, funded training to clear the backlog, and driven policy changes. Its six pillars of reform—which include mandating statewide kit tracking and testing timelines—have been adopted by 21 states.

In 2024, Hargitay shared a more personal connection to this work, revealing in an essay that she had been raped in her 30s—which took her decades to come to terms with. "I couldn't process it," she wrote. "I was building Joyful Heart on the outside so I could do the work on the inside."

—Harry Booth





Nicole Taylor

COMMUNITY GIVING

Community foundations gather the funds of many, directing them toward coordinated action. "It's being that bridge" between donors and everyday people, says Nicole Taylor, president and CEO of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the largest such institution in the U.S. SVCF gave away \$1.5 billion in 2024, and its network of over 1,000 donors includes Silicon Valley heavyweights like Mark Zuckerberg and Reed Hastings, as well as many smaller contributors.

Taylor's driving mission is "putting the community back in the community foundation." That has meant refocusing on the Valley's deep-rooted inequalities, including a \$100 million initiative to invest in grassroots Black-led organizations, now set to spin off as an independent group. —Harry Booth

John Green

SPOTLIGHTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Tuberculosis is the world's deadliest infectious disease despite being curable—an injustice author John Green details in his recent, bestselling book *Every-thing Is Tuberculosis*. Last year, Green announced that he and his family would donate \$1 million annually to help fight the disease in the Philippines, which has the fourth highest burden of TB globally. The move builds on a long history of giving for Green, whose foundation—co-founded with his brother Hank—has awarded a total of more than \$10 million in grants to dozens of charities, including Partners in Health.

—Megan McCluskey

Sol Trujillo

FIGHTING STEREOTYPES

Sol Trujillo co-founded the Latino Donor Collaborative to fight economic myths about Latinos in the U.S. through original research. A recent report focused on the growing power of Latinas in the U.S. L'Attitude Ventures, his venture-capital firm, funds Latino-run companies. —Peter Carbonara

—Kim Clark

Sara Lomelin

COLLECTIVE GIVING

Sara Lomelin leads Philanthropy Together, which scales and strengthens collective giving with training and a database of over 4,000 giving circles seeking new members. "It's the multiplying effect of the dollars, the ideas, and the volunteer hours," says Lomelin. —Kim Clark

Cari Tuna & Dustin Moskovitz

HIGH-IMPACT GIVING

Cari Tuna and Dustin Moskovitz's Good Ventures and Open Philanthropy take a data-centric approach to "help humanity thrive," directing dollars to causes where they can do the most good, in areas from AI safety to housing and air quality. —PC

Anand Giridharadas

ELITE CHALLENGER

Author Anand Giridharadas' 2018 book *Winners Take All* changed the national conversation about big-donor philanthropy, arguing that elites use it to unjustly justify their wealth. The alternative, he says, is a democratic system with appropriate taxation on the ultra-rich. —Billy Perrigo

—PC

Francine A. LeFrak

WELLNESS FOR WOMEN

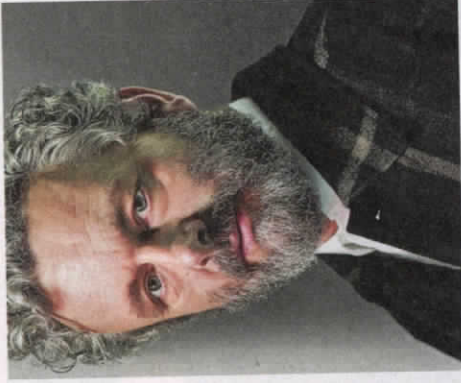
Francine LeFrak focuses her philanthropy on women. Her approach, she says, centers on the "three pillars" of wellness: physical, mental, and financial. Her foundation supported a state-of-the-art center for well-being at Barnard College, opening in June. —PC

Jennifer Pritzker

AN ECLECTIC GIVER

In January, Jennifer Pritzker's Tawani Foundation gave a restored Frank Lloyd Wright house to her alma mater, Loyola University. Other recent recipients include a military museum, the Chicago Symphony, and transgender-health researchers. —Bellinda Luscombe

—Sandra Block



Michael Sheen

NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACTOR

When funding for the Homeless World Cup soccer tournament in his home country Wales fell through in 2019, Michael Sheen decided to sell two of his houses to help cover the shortfall. Realizing the impact his earnings could have, he declared himself a "not-for-profit actor" in 2021.

Sheen has kept using the money he makes from acting to fund social projects, focusing in particular on helping the people of Wales. In March, he revealed the results of a two-year project that involved creating a debt-acquisition company with £100,000 (\$133,000) of his own money to buy up borrowers' cut-rate loans and writing off around £1 million (\$1.3 million) worth of debt for some 900 people across south Wales. Sheen previously also pledged £50,000 (\$66,000) over five years to fund a bursary to help Welsh students attend the University of Oxford. —Aysha Javed

Tony Hawk

SKATEBOARDING FOR ALL

The skate park in Tony Hawk's hometown didn't just make him the world's most famous skateboarder. It also gave a sense of belonging, he says. "It was never lost on me how lucky I was to have that community,"

In 2002 he launched the Skatepark Project to fund safe places to skate in all 50 states, including 15 new parks in 2024, and provide equipment. It has also helped fund skate parks in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa, in partnership with the nonprofit Skateistan. Hawk also wants to add more skate parks in Native American communities and underserved areas.

—Sandra Block