



humanity at work

FOUNDATION BEYOND BELIEF

Year-End Report 2010



Letter from the Executive Director

April 1, 2011

Dear Foundation members and supporters,

What follows is not quite an annual report, but much more than a newsletter. It's an overview of our inaugural year. And what a thrilling, challenging, and deeply rewarding year it was.

Our launch on January 1, 2010 was a step into the void. We had no real way of knowing whether the nontheistic community at large would take to the idea of an ongoing community of humanists dedicated to philanthropy as an expression of our worldview.

We needn't have worried. In our first year, more than 700 members of Foundation Beyond Belief donated over **\$83,000 to 37 featured charities** working to improve this life and this world.

Our members helped save a children's home in Nepal from dissolution. We funded science education in India and in US public schools and supported efforts to fight global warming and protect biodiversity.

We put textbooks in Uganda's humanist schools and funded peacebuilding teams in Uganda's conflict areas. We supported efforts to improve access to health care for marginalized populations on four continents and in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake.

We helped launch a new Camp Quest in Virginia and a new school for girls in Pakistan. We've added humanist voices and dollars to the fight for LGBT rights, the central civil rights issue of our time. We've empowered adoptions, helped feed the hungry, and worked to protect the most vulnerable—refugees in war, victims of torture, women under threat of religious violence, political asylees, people struggling with addiction, and those seeking dignity at the end of their lives. And we did these things not despite our worldview, but because of it—because we know there is no supernatural power to do it for us.

Many of our members have spoken of a greater connection to their humanistic worldview and a new sense of growing in that worldview. "For the first time in a long time," said one member, "I feel like I'm **actively developing as a humanist.**"

As we head into our second year, we do so with a greater sense of who we are and what we can do. Thanks so much to all of the compassionate humanists who have made possible this experiment in humanist philanthropy.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale".

**Dale McGowan, Executive Director
Foundation Beyond Belief**

dale@FoundationBeyondBelief.org

2010 Timeline



- Jan 1 [FoundationBeyondBelief.org](#) website launches
Features in media including [Huffington Post](#)
- Feb 20 Launch of [Podcast Beyond Belief](#)
for nonreligious parents
- Mar 15 Foundation passes \$10,000 in member contributions
Foundation's 501(c)(3) status finalized by IRS, retroactive to May 2009
- Mar 31 First quarter ends: **\$12,505** donated by 324 members
- Apr 3 FBB featured in [New York Times](#)
- Apr 8 FBB completes [first large-scale survey of secular parents](#) (1740 respondents
in 49 states). Results help formation of several local groups.
- Jun 30 Second quarter ends: **\$22,535** donated by 504 members this quarter
- Jul 29 End of membership fee; giving program now free, with 100% pass-through
- Aug 27 Foundation passes \$50,000 in total member contributions
- Sep 1 Foundation launches [FBB Partners Program](#) to provide humanist giving
program for local freethought groups
- Sep 30 Third quarter ends: **\$23,205** donated by 562 members this quarter
- Oct 10 Parenting program discontinued in anticipation of IRS conflict-of-interest concerns. Mid-
term programmatic focus now threefold: charitable giving, volunteerism, disaster relief
- Dec 31 Fourth quarter ends: **\$25,290** donated by 704 members this quarter

Total of \$83,535 donated to 37 charities in 2010



Foundation Partner [Fellowship of Freethought Dallas](#) raised
\$1,160 for our beneficiaries in four local fundraisers.

THE HUMANIST GIVING PROGRAM

Beneficiary selection

Foundation Beyond Belief selects ten charitable organizations per quarter, one each in the categories of Poverty, Peace, Education, Environment, Human Rights, Health, Animal Protection, Child Welfare, and Small Charities. The Foundation itself is the tenth option each quarter. Beneficiaries are chosen primarily from nominations submitted on our website. Selection criteria include efficiency, effectiveness, moderate size (annual budget under \$10 million), compatibility with humanist focus on mutual care of this world and this life, and geographical diversity.

During 2010, the Foundation considered nominations of charities based in other worldviews so long as they did not proselytize. Beginning in January 2011, this model was replaced by a separate category for charities based in progressive, non-secular worldviews.

2010 BENEFICIARIES BY CATEGORY AND GRANT TOTAL



My kids both watched the videos from groups like **War Child** and **Water For People**. Learning happened. Humanitarianism happened. My children felt compassion for others and wanted to help.

*FBB member
Christin Eubanks*



Poverty

Q1: Water for People \$1,490
Q2: ActionAid International \$2,315

Q3: Global Mountain Fund \$2,645
Q4: Trenton Area Soup Kitchen \$2,370



Child Welfare

Q1: War Child UK \$1,250
Q2: Global Fund for Children \$1,975

Q3: Gift of Adoption \$2,210
Q4: Camfed USA \$2,590



Education

Q1: Point Foundation \$1,640 Q3: Uganda Humanist Schools \$3,395
 Q2: Nat'l Cntr for Sci Ed \$3,640 Q4: Vidnyanvahini (Science in Motion) \$3,735



Environment

Q1: Global Green USA \$1,275 Q3: Energy Action Coalition \$2,105
 Q2: Forest Ethics \$1,930 Q4: Center for Biological Diversity \$2,145



Peace

Q1: Refugees Int'l \$1,075 Q3: Quaker Peace & Soc. Witness \$2,125
 Q2: Cntr for Victims of Torture \$2,310 Q4: Fed of American Scientists \$2,460



We are very grateful for the most generous donation from all the members of FBB. We visit rural high schools in Maharashtra, India, helping to dispel exploitative superstitions prevalent in villages by giving students a chance to learn science through experiments and video presentations. The donation from FBB will cover 35 such trips until June 2011.

Madhukar Deshpande
 Coordinator, Vidnyanvahini
 (Science in Motion).
 Vidnyanvahini earned \$3,735 in member donations, the largest grant of the year.

What determines grant amounts?

Each member decides on his or her total donation per month and what percentage of that donation goes into each cause category. A greater total grant indicates greater member support of that category or charity in that quarter. Each quarter also increases overall as membership grows.

- **EDUCATION** drew the largest share of contributions in every quarter of 2010.
- The charity that earned the smallest amount in the 4th quarter of 2010 earned more than the top-earning charity in the 1st quarter.
- The 4th quarter donation total was more than twice that of the first.



I like the regularity of [the Foundation's giving program]. My wife and I get several requests a year from friends doing marathons or walks for charities. Or something like Haiti happens. And, of course, we support them. But that's reactive. We wanted something more conscious, more deliberative.

*Foundation member
Ingo Soeding
Quoted in New York Times, April 3, 2010*



Human Rights

- Q1: Bergen Cty Sanctuary Cmte \$1,120
- Q2: Equality Now \$2,090
- Q3: Compassion & Choices \$2,250
- Q4: Marriage Equality USA \$2,745



Health

- Q1: HealthRight Int'l \$1,200
- Q2: Haitian Health Fndtn \$1,995
- Q3: Nat'l Assoc of Free Clinics \$2,235
- Q4: Fndtn for African Med and Ed \$2,285



Animal Protection

- Q1: Wildlife Trust \$1,145
- Q2: TL2—Bonobo in Congo \$2,105
- Q3: Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary \$1,940
- Q4: Animal Welfare Institute \$1,985



We are so pleased to have the support of your members. Foundation Beyond Belief is a very innovative idea that I am certain will be doing a lot of good for many good causes. Good luck with your continuing efforts!

Dr. Terese Hart, Director, TL2—Bonobo in Congo





“Big Bang” Fund

small charities, big impact

Q1: SMART Recovery \$1,175
Q2: Circle of Women \$2,265

Q3: Camp Quest \$2,470
Q4: Ayaan Hirsi Ali Fndtn \$2,750



I was particularly happy to see **Ayaan Hirsi Ali's Foundation** featured in the fourth quarter. Reading her book *Infidel* was one of those defining moments in my life. She is such an inspiration, and I love being able to support her work in educating and fighting for the rights of Muslim women. As the mother of two young girls, I hope to pass along her incredible story of strength and courage.

*FBB member
Sarah Greer*



It takes about \$5,000 in seed money to get a new camp started. We give out grants of \$2,500 to get our volunteers halfway there, and they match that amount by raising the rest of the funds from local supporters. The \$2,470 from **Foundation Beyond Belief** almost entirely funds our start-up grant to **Camp Quest Chesapeake**, which is having its first session in summer 2011 in Virginia.

*Amanda Metskas
Executive Director, Camp Quest*

Since the \$9 annual membership fee was eliminated in July 2010, participation in our Humanist Giving Program has been entirely free, and **100 percent of each dollar donated has always gone directly to our beneficiaries.**

In order to give members a voluntary way of supporting the Foundation with a portion of their monthly donation, FBB itself is the tenth giving category each quarter. Our members generously donated \$7,190 to the Foundation in this way during 2010.



FOUNDATION STAFF



AIRAN WRIGHT
Web designer and
administrator



LINDSAY PAIGE
Charitable giving
coordinator (Q1-Q2)



CLAIRE VINYARD
Social media
coordinator



DALE MCGOWAN
Executive director



TERRY SQUIRE STONE
Membership coordinator
(Q1-Q2)



UTE MITCHELL
Parent community
coordinator (Q1-Q2)



KELLY WRIGHT
Blog editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TRISH COWAN
Board Secretary



HEMANT MEHTA
Board President



KATE MILLER
Board Treasurer

MAJOR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to our donors at all giving levels. Their generosity has made our first year a success and laid the groundwork for continued growth. The following individuals and institutions contributed one-time donations of \$100 or more to our operational expenses during 2010:

Supporting contributors (\$100-499)

Anonymous (2)	Nathan Curland	Kimberly Long	Judith Shepelak
Heidi Anderson	Ronald DeHarpporte	Stacey Markus	Colleen Stewart
Austin Atchison	Jerome Donnelly	Katherine Mis	Richard Wade
Philip Boothby	John Duboise	Naomi Nelson	Gary Waller
Gary Bowen	Paul Eastland	Lee Nicholson	Eric Weigle
John Bowie	Chad Froese	Robyn Parnell	Brad Wheeler
Meghan Byrne	Robert Goodrich	Daniel Prager	Charles Wieland
James Cherry	John Haley	Paul Rose	Leslie Wright
David Choweller	Renee Hall	Kristen Schaub	
Daniel Clarence	Richard Hendricks	Amy Schirmer	
Anne Cumberledge	James Lloyd	Mary Severinghaus	

Sustaining contributors (\$500-999)

Anonymous (2)	Rick Rohrer
Dale Family Foundation	Amy McAdoo
Bryna Dye	

Promethean Circle (\$1000-4999)

Anonymous	Stiefel Freethought Foundation
Philip Kizer	Herb Silverman and Sharon Fratepietro
Ivanna Kartarahardja	

Superhumanists (\$5000+)

James Hervey Johnson Charitable Educational Trust
Institute for Humanist Studies Grant Fund



I understand how hard it is for any non-profit, particularly one just starting up. There was no hesitation when the first call for assistance was sent out to help the Foundation Beyond Belief get off the ground, and I continue to be proud to watch the ongoing efforts of the Foundation.

Philip Kizer, Promethean Circle donor

The Foundation deeply regrets any errors or omissions in this list. Please report errors to administrator@FoundationBeyondBelief.org for inclusion in a subsequent report.

FINANCIALS

INCOME

Direct donations to grantees from members	\$83,535
Foundation income	
• Member dues, Jan-June (member fee discontinued Jul '10)	\$ 3,600
• Voluntary member distributions to FBB	7,075
• One-time donations	14,300
• Grant income	18,000
Total Foundation income	42,975
COMBINED INCOME TOTAL FOR 2010	\$126,510

EXPENDITURES

Member donations forwarded to grantees	\$83,535
General operational overhead (subscriptions, web hosting, transaction fees, bookkeeping, tax preparation, etc.)	5,200
Website development	7,000
Advertising and marketing	1,900
Total staff payroll	22,600
COMBINED EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR 2010	\$120,235
Balance carried into 2011	+6,275

Estimated 2010 income and expenditures as of February 2011. Actual budget numbers and IRS Form 990 for first year of program operation will be posted at FoundationBeyondBelief.org by June 15, 2011. An independent financial review by North Georgia Accounting Consultants is scheduled for Fall 2011.

Looking Ahead

Goals for 2011 include:

- **\$250,000** in total donations and **2000 members** by end of year
- Launch **Challenge the Gap** worldview cooperation program (January)
- Expand board from three to five seats (April)
- Launch **FBB Internship Program** (May)
- Launch **Volunteers Beyond Belief** local humanist volunteer corps (June)
- Formal financial review (June)
- Launch rapid response disaster relief program (July). *[N.B. at press time: In response to the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, FBB has accelerated these plans, raising \$20,798 for the Japanese Red Cross in March 2011.]*
- Expand **Foundation Partners Program** to 25 member organizations
- Initiate formal strategic planning process



One of the projects I am most excited about is 'Challenge the Gap,' a new initiative of Foundation Beyond Belief, an atheist and Humanist charitable foundation, which aims to find common ground between the religious and the secular. It is, to my knowledge, the first time that an explicitly atheist and Humanist foundation is funding interfaith cooperation. *Chris Stedman, CTG advisor, Harvard Humanist Fellow, FBB member, writing in the Huffington Post, Jan 14, 2011*



Why would a humanist foundation support ANY religious group, no matter how progressive?

*Many of our members wanted the option of expressing their humanism in that way. Ninety percent of our beneficiaries are always secular, but a member poll in October 2010 determined that **more than half wanted the option** of occasionally supporting a non-dogmatic, non-proselytizing, progressive religious charity as an expression of common ground. Only 9 percent were strongly opposed. We created Challenge the Gap so members who wish to support such groups can do so, while members who do not wish to can easily support an all-secular slate.*

That's freethought at its best, and we wouldn't have it any other way.



Foundation Beyond Belief, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States.
EIN 26-4822541

Our mission: To demonstrate humanism at its best by supporting efforts to improve this world and this life, and to challenge humanists to embody the highest principles of humanism, including mutual care and responsibility.

Visit us online at www.FoundationBeyondBelief.org.

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